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First for football

Liverpool restore 13-point lead with help from VAR The Game 10

Who stumbled and who soared in 2019

Caitlin Moran, Times2

US launches biggest attack in a decade on Iran-backed militias

Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent

The United States launched the first airstrikes for almost a decade against Iranian-backed militia forces in Iraq and Syria last night in an escalation of the two powers' confrontation in the Middle East.

The Pentagon said that it had hit five bases used by the Kataeb Hezbollah, a Shia militia built up by Iran to promote its security interests in Iraq. It said that three of the bases hit were in Iraq and two in Syria, where the militia has been deployed to bolster the regime of President Assad.

The Pentagon claimed to be responding to a rocket strike on Friday night, blamed on the militia, against US and Iraqi army forces near the city of Kirkuk. An American private contractor was killed and four American and two Iraqi soldiers injured.

The US strike was the first direct confrontation between American and Iranian-backed forces in Iraq since President Obama withdrew forces in 2011 as the post-invasion civil war wound down. As part of that war, Iranian-supplied militias fought US and British troops. The US-led anti-Islamic State coalition, Operation Inherent Resolve, and militias backed by Iran have co-operated against Isis but have been manoeuvring to maintain their influence with the Iraqi government.

"In response to repeated Kataeb Hezbollah attacks on Iraqi bases that host Operation Inherent Resolve coalition forces, US forces have conducted precision defensive strikes that will degrade KH's ability to conduct future attacks," Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said. An Iraqi military statement said that four militia fighters were killed and 30 injured in the raids inside Iraq, although there were reports that at least 25 had died.

Middle East tensions raised, page 28

Race row as £1m gift is snubbed by elite schools

Donor offers scholarships for poor white pupils

Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

Two leading private schools have rejected scholarships of more than £1 million for poor white boys from a philanthropist for fear of breaching anti-discrimination laws.

Dulwich College and Winchester College turned down an offer from Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites, 96, to leave the funds in his will.

Sir Bryan, who attended both schools on scholarships, wanted white British boys from disadvantaged homes to benefit because they did worse at school than almost every other ethnic group. Studies have shown that they perform relatively poorly in exams and are less likely than their peers to attend university.

Stormzy, the rap star, established Cambridge University scholarships exclusively for black British students. The refusal of leading boys' schools to allow financial help exclusively for white pupils has prompted a row about equality laws.

Sir Bryan said: "If Cambridge University can accept a much larger donation in support of black students, why cannot I do the same for underprivileged white British? Winchester said it would harm its reputation by accepting my bequest, but in my opinion it would gain enormously by being seen to address what is the severe national problem of the underperforming white cohort in schools." Trevor Phillips, former chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, said that well-known schools had turned down more than £1 million of financial help for white boys in recent months. He blamed a "lethal cocktail of inverted snobbery, racial victimhood and liberal guilt" for the reluctance to help white boys, whom he described as "today's educational left-behinds".

He said: "I doubt that I'll ever work out why the British appear untroubled that so many of their children emerge from over a decade of expensive, compulsory education with scarcely more in the way of literacy and numeracy than the average Neanderthal."

Writing in the online magazine Standpoint, he continued: "On half a dozen occasions over the past five years I've been asked to advise on whether it is acceptable to offer bursaries or scholarships to one minority group or another. Invariably, I have said yes; but donors remain nervous, and beneficiary institutions are routinely discouraged by their lawyers.

"I have no idea how many such generous offers have been turned down, but I do know that in recent months two well-known fee-paying schools have lost bequests totalling over £1 million that might have supported some of our most disadvantaged children for one reason: the donor, like Stormzy, wants his money to go to people of his own background — poor but talented white British boys." Mr Phillips said

Continued on page 2, col 3

JAMES WHATLING

The Prince of Wales and Princess Royal at Sandringham yesterday. He attended 521 events this year, overtaking his sister

Charles eclipses Anne as hardest-working royal

Jack Malvern

It may have been a bumpy year for the royal family but they have diligently continued their public engagements at home and abroad.

The Prince of Wales was the hardest-working of them, attending 521 functions. This was more than his sister, the Princess Royal, who is historically the most industrious.

The siblings have shared the bulk of royal duties since the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh began to scale back their work in the mid-1990s. Prince Charles, heir to the throne, is understood to have plans to slim down the monarchy.

The family undertook a total of 3,567 varied engagements, with the prince visiting Japan for the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito and Cornwall for a tour of the sausage roll company Ginsters. The Princess Royal had 506 engagements, the Earl of Wessex 308 and the Queen 295.

The family's public service, monitored annually by the *Times* reader Tim O'Donovan since 1979, came as the Duke of York stood down from public life in the aftermath of an interview he gave to the BBC programme *Newsnight*. Prince Andrew was widely criticised for failing to distance himself from his late friend Jeffrey Epstein, a financier and convicted sex offender, and for not expressing sympathy for Epstein's victims. The duke attended 274 engagements, his fewest for 20 years, as charities for which he was patron sought to distance themselves from him.

Prince Andrew's total for next year is likely to fall to zero. He denies allegations by Virginia Roberts Giuffre, one of Epstein's alleged victims, that she had sex with him on three occasions.

Mr O'Donovan, 87, of Datchet in Berkshire, said: "He doesn't know for how long he's going to be out of work, but it's going to have an effect. He does a lot of work."

Unless other members take up the slack next year, it is likely that the total number of engagements will fall below 3,500 for the first time since 1986. Since 1979 the average has been 3,678. The

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In the 2010s technology and austerity took us from the most satisfying parts of being human

CLARE FOGES, PAGE 23

Pension funds 'face climate hit'
The governor of the Bank of England has urged pension fund managers to wake up to climate change or face their assets becoming "worthless". Mark Carney said they should consider ending their investments in fossil fuels. **Page 4**

Legal battle to protect vegans
A man who does not wear leather, silk or wool and will only date other vegans will this week begin a test case against his former employer to decide whether "ethical veganism" should be recognised as a protected belief. **Page 5**

Dismay over honours error
Whitehall was under increasing pressure to explain how the addresses of 1,000 new year honours recipients including celebrities, politicians, diplomats and police officers were accidentally published online. **Pages 6-7**

Energy bills up 40% since 2015
Household bills have risen to a record £2,707 a year, with the average family paying 40 per cent more for gas and electricity than five years ago, research shows. Bills overall have risen by three times the rate of inflation. **Page 13**

Riot police freed in prisoner swap
Five riot police officers accused of shooting dead protesters during Ukraine's revolution in 2014 were among 124 prisoners freed in a swap with pro-Russian separatists in the east. Kiev said that it had received 76 people in return. **Page 29**

Banks favour clients in ratings
Investment banks are treating their clients more favourably than other companies in equity ratings, a *Times* investigation has found. The findings suggest that reforms to reduce potential conflicts of interest are failing. **Page 35**

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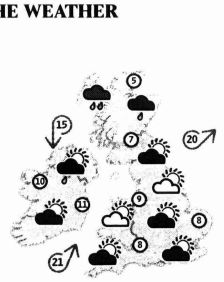

Dry with sunny spells for most of the country. Patchy rain across Scotland. **Full forecast, page 49**

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Pregnant migrant among 20 saved trying to cross Channel

Billy Kenber

A pregnant woman was among a group of migrants rescued from a sinking boat yesterday as they tried to cross the Channel on their way to Britain.

The expectant mother was in a group of 20 who were picked up by the French authorities after their boat began taking on water near Dunkirk. Another 11 suspected migrants were rescued by the French coastguard near Calais after their boat's engine failed.

A third boat, with ten men and one woman on board, was intercepted and brought to Dover in the early hours of yesterday. Some of those rescued were treated for hypothermia.

The latest attempts take the total number who have tried to cross the world's busiest shipping lane this month past 330.

Last year 210 people made it to Britain or were picked up in the Channel during December, with a further 67 intercepted as they prepared to depart from France.

There has been a surge in the numbers prepared to risk the crossing over the past 12 months.

The BBC has calculated at least 1,800 people have reached British shores after crossing the Channel this year.

Figures disclosed by the Home Affairs Select Committee show that 562 people were recorded as attempting to cross last year, with 297 making it to Britain.

Last week, the Home Office announced it had doubled the number of patrols on French beaches. Specialist vehicles, drones and detection equipment, including night vision goggles, are being used in efforts to stop boats leaving French shores.

The government said it was "monitoring the situation closely over the Christmas and new year period" and a 42-metre Border Force cutter and two coastal patrol vessels are patrolling the Channel.

Despite these measures, dozens of migrants are still attempting to cross.

On Boxing Day, 49 people in four boats were picked up by the Border Force and taken to the UK while two other boats with 14 people on board were rescued by the French authorities and returned to France.

On December 17, five boats were intercepted with a total of 69 migrants while 79 people, including several children, were rescued on December 4. Many of those making the crossing have presented themselves as Iranian or Iraqi nationals.

The British government has said it would seek to send anyone who arrived in the country illegally back to mainland Europe and has returned around 125 migrants since January.

In the past year, 30 people have been convicted in French courts for their involvement in smuggling migrants into Britain, with sentences ranging from three months to six years in prison.

A spokeswoman for the Home Office said: "Illegal migration is a criminal activity. Those who seek to come to the UK unlawfully and the ruthless criminals who facilitate journeys are all breaking the law and endangering lives. We will always ensure we have the right resources in place to keep our border secure.

"Individuals who reach the UK illegally should be in no doubt about our determination to return them to Europe as it is an established principle that those in need of protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach."

Reform will stop millions overpaying student loans

Nicola Woolcock

Millions of students will be saved from overpaying when the creaking student loan system is modernised next year.

Students and graduates will be able to access their account online and throw away paper statements under a "major revamp" promised by Gavin Williamson, the education secretary. It will allow graduates to manage up-to-date information about their loan balance and should save them from continuing to pay once the balance is cleared.

The online repayment service will go live next year, though a date has not been specified, as part of improvements to the much-criticised Student Loans Company (SLC) repayment system.

Some graduates had repayments deducted from their salaries after they had paid off the loan because data sharing with HM Revenue & Customs happened only once a year. The government is now suggesting that graduates switch from automatic deductions to direct debit two years before their loan is repaid to prevent this.

About 700,000 students start university each year. An investigation this year found that 510,000 students had made more than £300 million in overpayments, of which £28.5 million had not been reclaimed.

The government introduced legislation this year to bring in more frequent data sharing between the SLC and HMRC so students can see more accurate loan balances.

The threshold at which graduates start paying back their loans will rise to £26,575 in April 2020. Most borrowers repay 9 per cent of their income once they reach the salary threshold. The taxpayer subsidises about half of the overall cost of higher education.

Mr Williamson said: "Student loans can remain part of graduates' lives for many years, so it's only right we do all we can to improve the system for them."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Hardest-working royals

peak was reached in 1994, when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were at their most active.

The Duke of Sussex attended 201 engagements this year, his second highest since committing himself to public duties in a full-time capacity, despite also expressing a wish to take a break from public life. He is on a six-week break, which he announced soon after the Duchess of Sussex gave an interview to ITV in which she said that she had struggled to cope with the pressure of life within the royal family.

Mr O'Donovan compiles the figures by cutting out the court circular pages from every edition of *The Times* and sticking them into a scrapbook before tabulating them.

He warns, though, that the figures do not lend themselves to a "league table" of performance because the effort and preparation required for each engagement varies.

The Times has published his work each year except for the first, when industrial action meant that the newspaper was closed.

Letters, page 26

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Scholarship row

that such a proposal was not racist and that the Equality Act of 2010 was not called the "Be Kind to Blacks Act", adding: "In circumstances where the racial group that is disadvantaged is white, there should be no bar to doing for them exactly what we would do for so-called black and minority ethnic groups."

Sir Bryan was principal of Westfield College, part of the University of London, for 17 years. He planned to bequeath £400,000 to Dulwich College in south London and £800,000 to Winchester College in Hampshire.

He attended Dulwich until the outbreak of the Second World War, when he was sent to Winchester. Scholarships paid for him to attend both institutions. He has long supported both schools and taught at Winchester, where he founded the School Mathematics Project that reached 80 per cent of schools by the early 1970s. Both schools are understood to have consulted widely with lawyers, trustees and charity experts before declining the bequest.

Under the Equality Act positive discrimination, where someone is given preferential treatment because they have a specific characteristic, is generally unlawful. However "positive action" is permitted for efforts aimed at encouraging someone to overcome a disadvantage attributed to their race or other protected characteristic.

A spokesman for Winchester College said: "Acceptance of a bequest of this nature would neither be in the interests of the school as a charity nor the interests of those it aims to support through its work. Notwithstanding legal exceptions to the relevant legislation, the school does not see how discrimination on grounds of a boy's colour could ever be compatible with its values."

A spokesman for Dulwich College said: "The community at Dulwich is proudly diverse, both socio-economically and ethnically, reflecting our location. Bursaries are an engine of social mobility and they should be available to all who pass our entrance examinations, irrespective of their background."

Scholarship offer extended, pages 10-11
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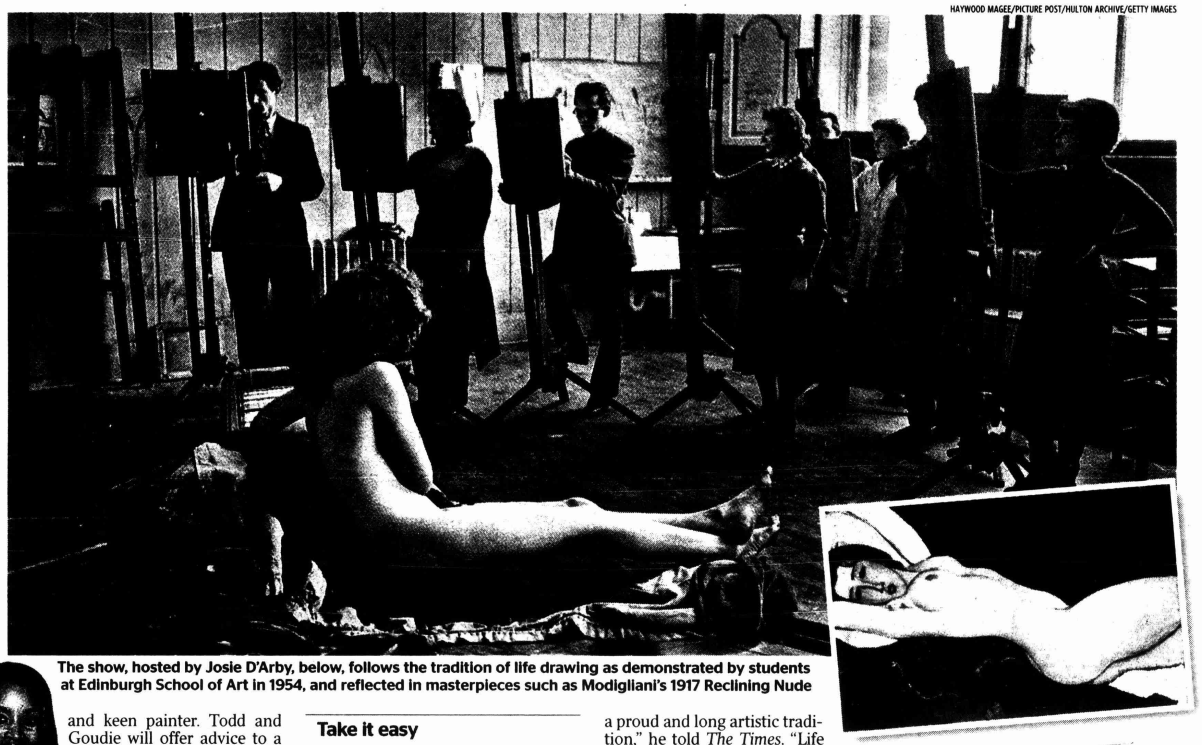
How 'positive action' works

The protected characteristics that enable "positive action" under the Equality Act 2010 are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. A school or university offering a scholarship or bursary for a particular group of students must be able to demonstrate that the group being helped suffers a disadvantage because of their protected characteristic. These scholarships are lawful as long as they are also a proportionate means of overturning the disadvantage.

Live from the BBC, this is the nudes

Fancy trying your hand at life drawing? A new TV show lets viewers sketch along at home, **Matthew Moore** writes

HAYWOOD MAGEE/PICTURE POST/HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



The show, hosted by Josie D'Arby, below, follows the tradition of life drawing as demonstrated by students at Edinburgh School of Art in 1954, and reflected in masterpieces such as Modigliani's 1917 Reclining Nude

From Titian's exquisite *Venus of Urbino* to the warm sensuality of John Singer Sargent's *The Bathers*, nudes have inspired some of the greatest works of art.

Now the entire country will get a chance to grapple with the human form, as BBC Four prepares to make television history with the first live life-drawing class.

The two-hour special, described as an art lesson for the nation, could pave the way for a new slate of interactive cultural programming.

Viewers will be encouraged to draw along with the class at home, sketching an array of naked models under the guidance of the award-winning professional artists Daphne Todd and Lachlan Goudie.

The best submissions will be displayed on screen towards the end of the show, so budding Botticellis can show off their works to the world.

Cassian Harrison, the channel editor of BBC Four, promised that *Life Drawing Live!*, to be broadcast at a time and date yet to be announced, would be a meditative experience unlike anything else on television.

His channel has popularised "slow TV" — a consciously languid genre intended to mesmerise rather than excite — and he believes the same approach could transform live event programming.

"We all feel that the pace of life is rather faster than it might be. Television itself, for a long time, has wanted an accelerated pace, to become noisier, louder and faster," he said.

"One of the things I've discovered on BBC Four is that audiences really like to take it down a gear, to take the time to contemplate and drink something in."

Life Drawing Live! will be hosted by Josie D'Arby, a former children's television presenter and keen painter. Todd and Goudie will offer advice to a room of amateur artists as they draw several different life models, who will move between poses throughout the 120-minute class.

The programme will include warm-up routines and time to practise before the two experts help the class — and viewers at home — to embark on their own masterpieces.

Mr Harrison, who has led BBC Four since 2013, said that the nudity would be handled tastefully, with models of all sizes and both sexes.

"It's a celebration of a proud and long artistic tradition," he told *The Times*. "Life drawing is one of the core elements of all art and drawing, and the human body is a wonderful and extraordinary thing."

If the special proves popular, the format could be adopted for other arts and crafts, from flower arranging to pottery. Mr Harrison said he wanted to make BBC Four, the national broadcaster's most highbrow channel, even more relevant to audiences.

"The ability for us not just to tell people about art and culture but to involve them in it, to allow them to participate and fulfil their own ambition and potential seemed like a really nice thing to do," he said.

Broadcasters are counting on "live event" television to stem the drift of viewers to on-demand platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

Ratings for scheduled television are in long-term decline, but big appointment-to-view productions, from sporting fixtures and Eurovision to this year's *Gavin & Stacey* Christmas special, continue to attract large audiences as viewers seek out shared communal experiences.

"That's still an incredibly valuable part of what television does. I want BBC Four to do that as much as the bigger channels do," Mr Harrison said.

D'Arby reassured novices that they could be as experimental or as ambitious as they liked. "The idea that the nation might join together in one huge shared drawing class and all learn from each other in a non- competitive way is very exciting," she said.

Life Drawing Live! has been commissioned with BBC Arts to coincide with the broadcast of Mary Beard's two-part documentary series *Shock of the Nude* on BBC Two early next year.

Figure-drawing classes have enjoyed a resurgence in recent years, even becoming a popular choice for stag and hen parties seeking an alternative to more raucous activities.

Take it easy

- On Christmas Eve BBC Four broadcast a 90-minute "sensory immersion" film of a man building an igloo. It followed a day in the life of an Inuit hunter in Greenland and was inspired by the popularity of skin-tingling autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR) videos on YouTube.
- Previous slow TV programmes on BBC Four include a narrowboat journey along the Kennet and Avon Canal and a bus trip through the North Yorkshire countryside.
- BBC stations have also experimented with "slow radio". Radio 4's rural soap The Archers embraced the trend with a ten-minute Ambridge "soundscape" that did not feature a single character, and Radio 3 marked Armistice Day with sounds recorded at the sites of famous battles around the world.

Flying Scotsman too slow for busy line

Hannah Mays

It was once the fastest train to run on British rails. A marvel of British engineering, the Flying Scotsman became the first locomotive in the country to reach speeds of 100mph in 1934.

Today however, rail enthusiasts are warning that the much-loved engine is in danger of being forced off the tracks by modern trains that are capable of reaching higher speeds.

Built in Doncaster in 1923 and decommissioned from service in 1963, the Scotsman was given an overhaul in 2016. But with a maximum speed of 75mph — still impressive but relatively slow by modern standards — she is forced to stop to allow more modern trains to overtake.

The west coast main line, where the train runs on the leg that passes through the Lake District, recorded a total of almost 40 million intercity journeys in 2018-19, an increase of almost 10 million compared with 2013. Much of the line has a maximum speed of 125mph, although only Class 390 Pendolinos and Class 221 Super Voyagers with tilting mechanisms operated by Avanti West Coast travel that fast.

The Flying Scotsman, which was built in 1923, has a top speed of 75 mph

Flying Scotsman's driver Michael Rowling said he was worried that faster trains would force the locomotive on to enthusiast-run lines only. "They're filling up the railway with a lot more trains than I think the timetable can cope with," he told *The Daily Telegraph*. "We don't know how long it's going to last on the main line."

Despite its age, the locomotive attracts a surprisingly young team of enthusiasts. Alex Johnson, 19, who helps to maintain the engine, is just one of a team of young men on board.

"You can't sign up for it. That's why a lot of us on here are so lucky that we've been invited to do this, to look after that engine," he said.

"The average age [of workers] is in their twenties. Our staff are very young for what we do, which I think is no bad thing at all. Steam doesn't come across as appealing to some but at the end of the day we've made people's day — it's very rewarding."

Catch with mother: chimp young shown tools of trade

Chimpanzees share tools to carry out difficult tasks and learn how to catch insects and other prey by being instructed, often by their mothers.

New research sheds light on our closest relatives' intelligence and helpful behaviour. Stephanie Musgrave, an anthropologist at the University of Miami, said non-human primates were taught tool skills by watching others with little direct help but the study showed that mothers had a more active role.

The study examined the transfer of tools in the gathering of termites from underground. It compared two populations of chimps: one in the Goualougo Triangle, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the other in Gombe, Tanzania.

In both locations the chimps used fishing-probe style tools from plants to harvest them. At Goualougo, where getting the food was harder, the rate of tool transfer was three times higher. Mothers were also more likely to pass it on in response to a request, most often to offspring. They refused at Gombe.

At Goualougo they used different types of sticks from specific species, customising them for more efficiency.

The findings, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, are significant. Professor Musgrave said: "First, chimpanzee populations may vary not only in the complexity of their tool behaviours but in the social mechanisms that support these behaviours. Second, the capacity for helping in chimpanzees may be both more robust and more flexible than previously appreciated."

News

STEPHEN CHEATLEY/BAV MEDIA

Seaside spectacular A stunning sunrise over Blackpool heralded a mild and largely dry end to the year, though there is a chance of rain farther north. Forecast, page 49

Bank boss: climate change will damage pension funds

Katie Gibbons

The governor of the Bank of England has urged pension fund managers to wake up to climate change to stop their investments from becoming worthless.

"A question for every company, every financial institution, every asset manager, pension fund or insurer: what's your plan?" Mark Carney said when he was interviewed for Radio 4's *Today* programme.

He acknowledged that some businesses were starting to curb their investment in fossil fuels, adding: "If we were to burn all those oil and gases there's no way we would meet carbon budgets. Up to 80 per cent of coal assets will be stranded and up to half of developed oil reserves."

The governor said in relation to divestment that companies "have to make the judgment and justify [it] to the people whose money it ultimately is".

He was asked on the show, which was guest edited by Greta Thunberg, the 17-year-old environmental campaigner from Sweden, whether pension funds should stop investing in fossil fuels even if the returns were attractive.

"Well that hasn't been the case but they could make that argument," he said. "They need to make the argument, to be clear about why is that going to be the case if a substantial proportion of those assets are going to be worthless."

He described climate change as a "tragedy on the horizon" and said there would be "more extreme weather events", but that "by the time that the extreme events become so prevalent and so obvious it will be too late to do anything about it".

Mr Carney added: "We look to political leaders to start addressing future problems today." He also urged climate change sceptics to drop their challenges to the issue, saying: "We can't afford on this one to have selective information, spin, misdirection ... it needs to be absolutely clear because we are all in on it."

Sarah Sands, the programme's full-time editor, admitted that the BBC flew its crew to Stockholm to record Ms Thunberg, who has sailed across the Atlantic and back to climate conferences. Sands said that BBC staff had discussed the pros and cons of flying out to meet her for the show, to be broadcast today. "It felt awkward but we did not have the time for trains or boats," she said.

Mr Carney is Canadian and his wife, Diana, is a prominent environmental campaigner. In September he addressed the United Nations' Global Climate Action Summit in New York on risks to financial stability. He will step down from the Bank in March to take up a role as the UN's special envoy on climate change.

TV show is ready steady to go green

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

There is one old kitchen staple that will be missing when *Ready Steady Cook* makes its comeback in the new year.

The rebooted cookery programme is to dispense with plastic bags as part of its pledge to be one of the most sustainable food shows on television.

The show, which starred Fern Britton and Ainsley Harriott, was a daytime TV favourite during its original run between 1994 and 2010. It is to be relaunched on BBC One with Rylan Clark-Neal as host.

He said that the new format would reflect changing consumer habits and awareness of environmental issues. "One of the biggest sustainability issues we face is from food and packaging waste, so *Ready Steady Cook* is being brought bang up to date to play its part in tackling this," he said. "It's going to be goodbye plastic bags and hello jute totes."

The producers have vowed to avoid single-use plastic, instead using glass jars and bottles for ingredients with colour-coded waste bins on the set and backstage for recycling. Unused ingredients will go to food banks and seasonal products will be favoured, they said, to "avoid excessive food miles".

The new show will stick to the original format of two contestants each paired with a chef and whipping up meals on a £10 budget, with cooking challenges against the clock and the use of wild-card ingredients.

There will be the denouement familiar to the millions who watched the show in its original guise: red tomato and green pepper voting cards for the audience members. Presumably made from recyclable paper.

Titchmarsh tells summer fruit fans to wait

Katie Gibbons

Alan Titchmarsh has criticised people who berate celebrities for taking long-haul flights but nevertheless indulge in ecolologically suspect habits themselves, such as buying strawberries and other fresh produce out of season.

The television presenter and gardener acknowledged that lecturing the public about their environmental footprint could lead to people feeling powerless but urged them to see beyond "the recycling bin as their sole contribution to aiding the environment". He said that his own household had become "positively evangelical" about buying British produce.

In his monthly column in the BBC magazine *Gardeners' World*, Titchmarsh, 70, wrote: "We cannot berate members of the royal family and global superstars for flying hither and yon in private jets if we buy strawberries in January, for they, too, will have necessitated the burning of fossil fuel to reach our table.

"I yearn for a return to seasonality of diet: English apples and pears in autumn and winter, strawberries and raspberries in summer, asparagus from April to June. The delights of anticipation and the postponement of gratification have, alas, become little more than a memory."

In response to the climate awareness protests that have disrupted London and other cities in the past few months, he added: "I hope that none of the Extinction Rebellion protesters has a block-paved front garden. It would be hypocritical to berate governments about their irresponsibility when so many of us are cavalier about such things on a domestic scale."

Quintagram® No 572

Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Highland valley (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Pinnacle (4)

_ _ _ _

3 Animistic priest (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Pastoral custodian (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Top people in business (4,6)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	D	E	E	E	E
E	F	G	G	H	H	H	H
H	I	K	L	L	M	N	N
P	P	R	R	S	S	S	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

Alasdair Gray dies

Alasdair Gray, the artist and author best known for his novel *Lanark*, died in hospital in Glasgow, a day after his 85th birthday, following a short illness. Nicola Sturgeon called him "one of Scotland's literary giants and a decent, principled human being". Irvine Welsh, the *Trainspotting* author, said that he "influenced a creative generation". Gray's family said he wanted to donate his body to medical science and so there would be no funeral.
Obituary, page 45

Passenger 'ran amok'

A man has been charged with assaulting five flight attendants after he allegedly ran amok on a transatlantic BA flight. William Clegg, 30, from west London, appeared before Uxbridge magistrates and pleaded not guilty to assault, being drunk on an aircraft and smoking on an aircraft. He will appear at Isleworth crown court in January.

New year, more delays

Rail users face more delays as a strike in the dispute over guards on trains enters its final week. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union on South Western Railway, who went on strike at the start of the month, will continue industrial action until New Year's Day. Rail services on the network will not return to normal until January 6.

Murdered men named

Two men whose murders have been linked by police have been named. The body of Arber Fesko, 30, an Albanian of no fixed address, was found in the boot of car in Barnet on December 19. Shkelqim Paja, 31, a Kosovan from north London, was found the next day in undergrowth in Elstree, Hertfordshire. Both men died of stab wounds.

Nazanin hunger strike

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the British-Iranian who has been detained in Iran for four years, is to hold a hunger strike in solidarity with a British-Australian academic serving a ten-year sentence on spying charges in the same prison. Kylie Moore-Gilbert, who is being held in solitary confinement, began refusing food a week ago.

Vegan goes to court so beliefs can be protected

Andrew Ellson

A man who refuses to catch buses in case they squash insects will bring a test case this week to decide whether "ethical veganism" should be recognised as a protected belief.

Jordi Casamitjana, 55, is taking his former employer, the League Against Cruel Sports, to an employment tribunal. It sacked him for revealing to other workers that it invested its pension funds in companies involved in animal testing, and for failing to follow a management instruction not to provide financial advice to his colleagues.

As well as not eating meat, dairy or eggs, Mr Casamitjana does not wear leather, silk or wool, avoids any products developed through animal testing, refuses to visit zoos or aquariums, will not buy products that use captive animals in their advertisements and will only date other vegans.

Jordi Casamitjana says he is acting to stop "veganphobia"

Mr Casamitjana, who has crowdfunded his legal action, says he is bringing the case to prevent vegans from facing "veganphobia" at work or in public.

His law firm, Slater and Gordon, have described it as a landmark case. In a statement, it said: "Ethical veganism is a philosophical belief held by a significant portion of the population in the UK and around the world. The case sets out how the belief in principle, and how Jordi's particular interpretations of it, meet the required legal test."

The league insists that Mr Casamitjana, originally from Spain, was sacked for misconduct. His dismissal letter said his actions were "biased because of your ethical principles and could influence [other employees] to change their pension arrangement".

Slater and Gordon will claim that the letter confirms that his employer recognised that his ethical veganism was a genuinely held belief, rather than simply a viewpoint. "Religion or belief" is one of nine "protected characteristics" covered under the Equality Act.

Mr Casamitjana says his veganism dictates all of his choices and means that he spends considerable time promoting veganism to non-vegans.

Last year he told *The Times*: "If someone is dismissed because they are vegan and their employer feels they don't want a vegan or simply doesn't like vegans, that person will be protected and can claim unfair dismissal. It could be anything. If someone would like to wear a 'Go Vegan' T-shirt or wants to talk about veganism with a colleague during a break and their boss says they shouldn't as these are extreme views, you can say, 'No they aren't, these are my beliefs and they are protected.'"

Slater and Gordon has obtained an expert statement from Jeff McMahan, a professor of moral philosophy at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who claims "there is a consensus among moral philosophers that even if veganism is not morally required, it is morally better than omnivorism or vegetarianism".

However, this year an employment tribunal ruled that vegetarians cannot be victims of discrimination as it dismissed the case of a hotel worker who claimed colleagues bullied him over his meat-free diet.

The case comes as hundreds of thousands of people are expected to try to observe "veganuary" by going without animal produce next month. A survey by the Vegan Society found that the number of vegans in Britain has risen from 150,000 to 600,000 since 2014.

SERENA GANNON-LODGE AND ANDREW LODGE/MERCURY PRESS

Couple bet the house on cancer op for dog

Millie is in remission after Serena Gannon-Lodge and Andrew Lodge arranged a stem cell transplant

A dog given six months to live has made a full recovery after her owners spent their life savings on a £39,000 stem cell transplant — which involved flying the dog's mother to the US.

Serena Gannon-Lodge and her husband, Andrew Lodge, who both lived in London before moving to San Francisco, were devastated when their six-year-old cocker spaniel, Millie, was diagnosed with lymphoma in July.

Millie had four months of chemotherapy while Ms Gannon-Lodge, who is a vet, and her husband, an engineer, began researching the work of the North Carolina State Veterinary Hospital — one of only three places to perform these transplants on dogs.

To find a donor the couple, both 32, contacted Robert Alcock, a 52-year-old catering manager and owner of Millie's mother, Coco, back in Britain. He agreed to fly out immediately. After Mr Alcock's week-long trip last month to extract Coco's stem cells, both dogs returned home safe before Christmas, with Millie officially in remission.

Coco is the first British dog to donate stem cells and Millie is the 26th dog in the world to receive them. Ms Gannon-Lodge said: "We had been in America for less than a year and we have been saving for a house so we had the money and could afford to do it. We used our savings to pay for Millie's treatment which we would do any day of the week." Her husband added: "Millie is Serena's soulmate, the bond they have is so loving I can't imagine the two of them being apart."

Greggs fake steak bake to follow non-sausage roll

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Greggs vegan sausage roll was one of the most popular foods introduced to the high street this year, with demand so great that stores ran out of the product when it arrived.

Now the bakery chain looks to be planning a follow-up to that success by introducing a vegan "steak bake".

A label for a vegan version of its bestselling meat pastry has started circulating on social media after being spotted by customer in a Cardiff branch of the store. The photograph suggests the new product will cost £1.55 and has "savoury flavour Quorn mycoprotein pieces and diced onions in gravy, wrapped in crisp puff pastry".

Earlier this month, the firm teased customers on social media by posting a message suggesting it was about to expand its vegan range.

In a Twitter post entitled #notflakenews, Greggs said the meat-free product would land in stores in January. *The Mail on Sunday* reported that the new 380-calorie meat-free "steak bake" will be on shelves on Thursday.

Roger Whiteside, the chief executive of Greggs, has said that the company is "working away" at coming up with vegan versions of all its top-selling lines after the success of the vegan sausage roll.

He said: "If we can succeed in doing that and produce something that tastes just as good as the meat version, then that will sell very successfully." He added that the move was "in keeping with what customers want to consume".

Down, boy? Rise in pets given therapy

Neil Johnston

Worried pet owners are turning to therapy to help animals struggling with stress and other mental health issues.

Insurers have paid out thousands in the past year as treatments for therapy rose by 50 per cent. Pets can be treated with hormones or behaviour modification plans to help with anxiety, depression or obsessive compulsive disorders but these can cost up to £1,000 a day.

Owners are increasingly concerned about their pets' behaviour with many reporting problems such as dogs jumping up at people, cats scratching and rabbits biting at the bars of their hutch. Three in four dog and cat owners were concerned about their pets' behaviour last year, according to YouGov.

While vets are sceptical about whether pets suffer mental ill health and believe their behaviour could be a symptom of other welfare issues, eight of the ten cheapest pet insurers now allow claims for mental ill health.

This includes Bought by Many, a specialist insurer for cats and dogs, which has paid out 50 per cent more this year for behavioural problems. Claims exceeded £75,000 this year compared with £50,000 in 2018.

Therapy can include administering a pheromone spray that mimics the hormones of a mother after she has given birth to a litter.

Among those who have sought therapy for a pet is Lesley Church-Burrows, 65, from Epping Forest, whose black-and-white Great Dane, Marlie, three, struggles with a twitching eye and, when hungry or worried, shakes from side to side scratching her paws.

Marlie sleeps on a memory foam mattress and gets 90 minutes of walking a day but was diagnosed with a possible anxiety-induced obsessive-compulsive disorder by the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals in Hertfordshire after two neurological sessions costing £275 each last month.

"People ask me how a dog can have anxiety and tell me the idea is as daft as a box of frogs," Ms Church-Burrows, who has owned 11 Great Danes, told *The Sunday Times*, adding that she believed her pet had agoraphobia.

Daniella Dos Santos, president of the British Veterinary Association, said pain was often a factor in pets' behaviour and owners should try to deal with this before turning to therapy. She said she had recently treated a dog whose owners were concerned that he had become aggressive when stroked but he actually had sore ears and just did not want them to be touched.

"The word 'mental' health is inappropriate for pets, as they are responding to changes in their environment," she said. "It just comes down to being aware of your pet's welfare needs."

Whitehall is told to come clean

Billy Kenber
Henry Zeffman Political Correspondent

Whitehall was under growing pressure to explain how the private addresses of more than 1,000 new year honours recipients including celebrities, politicians, diplomats and senior police officers were published online.

A senior Tory figure and the former head of the civil service were among those demanding that the Cabinet Office publicly explain how it managed to upload a document containing the information to its website.

The government apologised to those affected and said it was looking into what had happened after the home and work addresses of 1,097 people were published late on Friday and removed after about an hour.

The list included Sir Elton John, the cricketer Ben Stokes and the former director of public prosecutions Dame Alison Saunders.

Three police officers who were involved in investigating the Salisbury poisoning attack on the Russian defector Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, were among those in the list, as well as more than a dozen Ministry of Defence employees.

Sir Bernard Jenkin, chairman of the public administration and constitutional affairs select committee from 2010 until parliament was dissolved earlier this year, told *The Times*: "The civil service will be agonising over how this happened. There will clearly be an investigation to establish exactly who decided what. They must publish the findings as soon as possible."

He said it was "far more important to find out how the mistake was made than to find one individual to punish because it is likely that there was miscommunication or a misunderstanding or an innocent oversight rather than gross negligence or even malice".

Several politicians joined calls for the Cabinet Office to make public the findings of an internal investigation into what went wrong, and the former head of the civil service called it a "serious and indeed extraordinary breach".

The Cabinet Office has referred the data breach to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which has also launched an investigation. The ICO can impose fines of up to 4 per cent of a company's global turnover or £17 million, whichever is larger.

Lord Kerslake, a crossbench peer who headed the civil service from 2012 until 2014, told BBC *Breakfast* that there was a "well-established process that has gone on in pretty much the same way for years, so I think an urgent investigation is certainly needed".

Acknowledging it was likely to be a human error, he questioned whether staff were sufficiently well trained in information security and whether they had been "briefed on the potential consequences if this information was released".

Steve Brine, the Conservative MP for Winchester and Chandler's Ford, accused civil servants of incompetence. "Given how careful a simple MP like me is with data, this staggering incompetence beggars belief. Someone needs to face the music big time over this," he tweeted .

Dame Diana Johnson, the Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull North who was among those on the honours list, said: "As an MP I am only too well aware of the importance of keeping individuals' personal information safe and secure after the dreadful events of recent years."

The former Conservative party leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith, who was knighted, told *The Sunday Times* that the data breach was a "complete disaster". "Everybody knows virtually everything about me," he said. "It's much more concerning for private citizens, like those who have been involved in policing or counterterrorism or other such sensitive cases, to have their addresses published."

As well as being hugely embarrassing for the Cabinet Office the leak has prompted concerns about the risk of hostile nations targeting police and military figures affected by the breach.

The list included counterterror police and senior diplomats, although the addresses of those receiving gallantry awards, including police, paramedics and firefighters as well as military personnel, were on a separate list which did not include any personal addresses.

Richard Walton, former head of counterterrorism at Scotland Yard, said some of those working in sensitive police and intelligence positions would need new private security measures introduced into their homes.

The Met Police said they were aware of the breach and "will work with the Cabinet Office, the Information Commissioner, and the National Police Chiefs' Council to address any security concerns for honours recipients (including [Met Police] officers and staff) in our jurisdiction who may have been affected".

A Cabinet Office spokeswoman said: "A version of the new year honours 2020 list was published in error which contained recipients' addresses. The information was removed as soon as possible.

"We apologise to all those affected and are looking into how this happened. We have reported the matter to the ICO and are contacting all those affected directly."

Letters, page 26

More power for PM (at 55mph)

Henry Zeffman

Boris Johnson was given a motorbike for Christmas by his partner, Carrie Symonds. The prime minister, who spent Christmas in Downing Street, was given a second-hand Yamaha TTR 125, *The Mail on Sunday* reported.

The off-road machine has a top speed of 55mph and is worth about £1,000. Although security concerns would prevent Mr Johnson riding it in public he could enjoy it in the grounds of Chequers, his official country estate in Buckinghamshire.

The gift is an upgrade on the bicycle Mr Johnson told reporters earlier this month he was hoping for.

While he was the mayor of London Mr Johnson rode a bicycle around the capital. After becoming foreign secretary in 2016 he said that he had been forced to travel by official car due to the "convoy of police cyclists, plus cars, plus God knows what".

Mr Johnson, 55, and Ms Symonds, 31, are on holiday on the private Caribbean island of Mustique, and are staying in a villa which costs £20,000 a week to rent.

The couple are staying with the Von Bismarck family and have accepted the accommodation as a gift, although they paid for their economy-class flights themselves.

Polo visa rules 'were bent for the Queen'

The government changed its plans to tighten restrictions on visas because ministers believed that the Queen was concerned about the implications for the polo season, it was reported yesterday (Henry Zeffman writes).

Amber Rudd, when she was home secretary, wanted to overhaul the polo visa scheme, a system enabling players and grooms to work in the UK for the season, which runs from March to September.

Rather than pushing ahead with plans to restrict polo visas to only the best non-EU professional players, however, the Home Office has granted a special allocation of 500 visas every year since 2017, *The Mail on Sunday* said. Many polo players and grooms come from Argentina and Australia.

The newspaper reported that the decision came after the Queen became "very animated" by the plans. It said that the subject had been discussed between the Queen and Ms Rudd in a private meeting.

Officials believed that the polo visa scheme was being exploited, and that many of the more than 800 people who entered the country under the system actually worked as farm labourers.

The Queen is a

Diplomat in a boa tipped as MI6 chief

Lucy Fisher Defence Editor
Henry Zeffman

A long-serving woman diplomat has been tipped as a frontrunner in two races for plum government roles next year: chief of MI6 and British ambassador to Washington.

Dame Karen Pierce, 60, is Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations, the first woman to hold the position, which she took up in March last year. She is expected to be promoted to one of the two most prestigious civil service roles in 2020 and would be the first woman to hold either post.

In almost 40 years in the diplomatic service, Dame Karen has been posted to Tokyo, Geneva and the Balkans and was the UK's ambassador to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016.

Cutting a colourful figure in the grey, male-dominated diplomatic arena, she wore a feather boa at the UN security council and is said to travel with a step that helps her to clamber in and out of helicopters in stilettos.

Her name has been linked in Whitehall circles to the contest to become the next chief of MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service. It is understood that Sir Alex Younger, 56, the current "C", will step down at the end of the summer. He took charge at Vauxhall Cross in 2014 and extended his contract in April this year to maintain stability during the Brexit negotiations.

There is a precedent for a British ambassador to the UN making the leap to head the foreign intelligence service: Sir John Sawers left New York to become "C" in 2009. An internal candidate at MI6 is another frontrunner for the job and media reports this year suggested that the contest also included Tom Hurd, Home Office security chief and son of the former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd; Madeleine Alessandri, deputy national security adviser; and Richard Moore, political director at the Foreign Office.

Dame Karen Pierce was called "fab" by President Trump

The ambassadorship to Washington has been vacant since July when Sir Kim Darroch, now Lord Darroch of Kew, left after the leak of diplomatic cables in which he described the Trump administration as inept.

Sir Mark Sedwill, the cabinet secretary, is also thought to have come under consideration to replace Lord Darroch. He is now thought likelier to remain at the head of the civil service. President Trump has been impressed by Dame Karen and privately described her as "fab", according to *The Mail on Sunday*.

BBC bias claims are blamed on a confluence of cock-ups

Katie Gibbons

Perceptions that lead to the BBC being accused of a bias to the left or right are often caused by a "confluence of cock-ups", Emily Maitlis, the chief presenter of *Newsnight*, said yesterday.

Maitlis and other BBC news colleagues have come under scrutiny in recent months over the corporation's coverage of the general election. She told *The Observer*: "I'm not sure I buy the argument that the public is more mistrustful: the debate will always garner that kind of traction because anything the BBC does is always in the spotlight. So often people read conspiracy into a thing when it's really a confluence of cock-ups and the wrong button being pressed at the wrong time, or the guest you wanted gets into the wrong taxi and doesn't show up."

Laura Kuenssberg, the BBC political editor, was criticised after she apparently unwittingly posted a link to an offensive blog by the prime minister's special adviser Dominic Cummings.

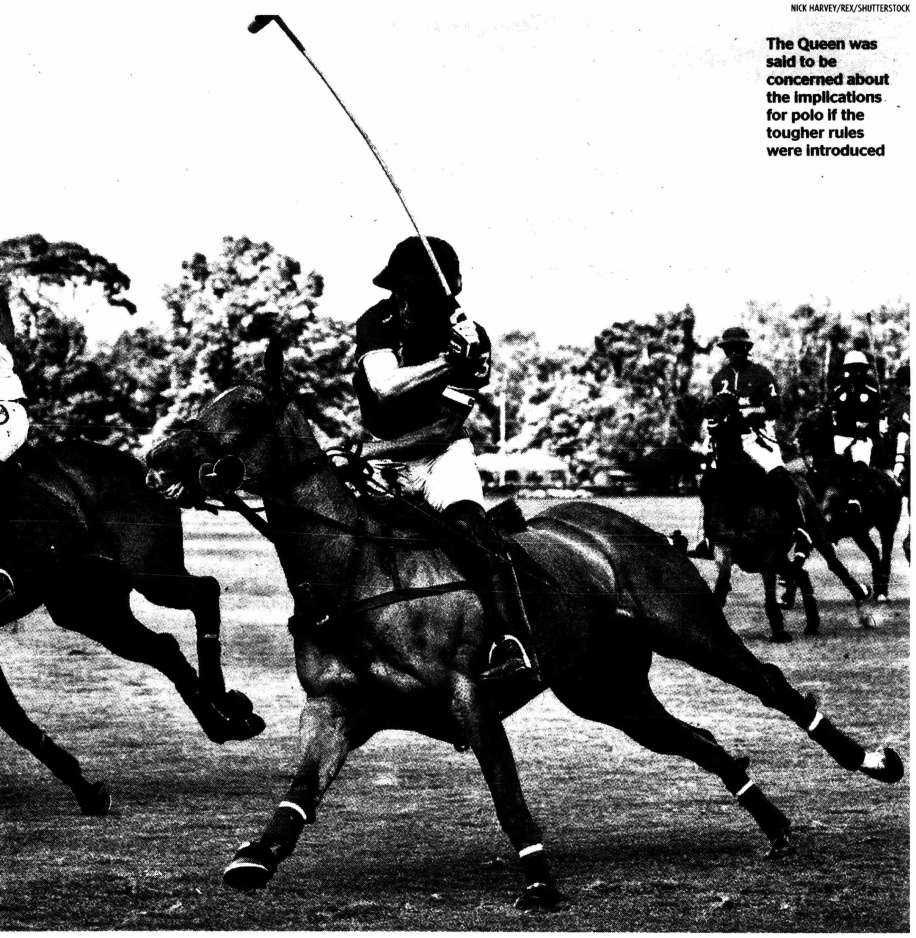
Maitlis said: "I just think there is a lesson for all of us in what we do with the stuff we're told, how we double-check it and how we scrutinise what we're told, even by people who seemingly should be trusted."

Her comments follow the defence last week by Tony Hall, the BBC director-general, against claims that the broadcaster's election coverage had failed to remain impartial in a fast-evolving media and political landscape.

Separately, Charles Moore, a former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, claimed that he had had to battle to get Lord Ridley, a climate change sceptic, on to Saturday's edition of the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, which he guest edited.

over honours data leak blunder

NICK HARVEY/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



The Queen was said to be concerned about the implications for polo if the tougher rules were introduced

regular spectator at polo matches and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Sussex have all played the sport.

The Hurlingham Polo Association, the sport's governing body, began legal proceedings to challenge the government's changes to the visa scheme in October 2016.

A decision on whether to extend the exemption for another year is expected to be made by Priti Patel, the home secretary, in the coming days.

Angus MacNeil, the Scottish National Party MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, seized on the report, writing on Twitter: "Seems we live in a UK state that has 'bent' visa rules of a POLO TEAM !! for the head of state — but try getting fishermen for Scotland or other key workers in!! #BananaKingdom."

Buckingham Palace declined to comment but palace sources told *The Mail on Sunday* that the Queen did not lobby on a specific policy as she is strictly neutral on political issues.

Abandon Corbyn policies for good, say defeated MPs

Henry Zeffman

The next Labour leader has been urged by defeated and re-elected MPs to ditch Jeremy Corbyn's policies .

Seven former MPs who lost their seats in the party's worst election result since 1935 said that it needed fundamental change and an unflinching look at the reasons for the defeat.

The group, which included Mary Creagh, Emma Reynolds, Anna Turley and Phil Wilson, said in a joint letter to *The Observer*: "We need to be honest about why our outgoing leadership's reflexive anti-western worldview was so unpopular and address the reasons.

"We were rejected on the doorsteps not just because of our woolly, changing position on Brexit, or in Scotland, because of our weak commitment to the union, but because the very people we were supposed to be fighting for did not think the policies in our manifesto related to their lives.

"The focus on nationalisation and uncontrolled spending commitments meant people simply didn't believe us… cronyism at the top of our party and repeated unwillingness to stand up to the stain of antisemitism were constantly relayed back to us on the doorstep."

Many of the signatories represented seats making up the so-called red wall, which crumbled to give Boris Johnson a majority of 80. Ms Creagh was the first Labour candidate to lose Wakefield since 1932 and Mr Wilson the first to lose Sedgefield since 1935.

Paul Williams, 47, another defeated MP who signed the letter, told Sky News that Labour had become "a toxic brand" and that the party needed "a fundamental reboot". Mr Williams, the MP for Stockton South from 2017 until the election was called, said: "We need a leader who starts with where the country actually is now and helps to move people forward rather than somebody that hopes the country was in a different place to where it really is."

Sir Keir Starmer, 57, the shadow Brexit secretary and a frontrunner to succeed Mr Corbyn, who is yet to step down, has said that Labour should not "oversteer" too far from Mr Corbyn's policies as it moves on to a new leader.

Asked about Sir Keir's pitch, Mr Williams said: "Politics is a very brutal game. If you lose, you lose. We need to press the reset button here. You never throw the baby out with the bathwater and we need to make sure that we keep our current members engaged and look at which of the policies we ought to stick with… but we need to be realistic. People have fallen out of love with the Labour Party."

The defeated MPs were backed by Wes Streeting, 36, the MP for Ilford North, who urged his party to spurn Corbynism. He said: "It's not just a change of leader we need but a change of direction. That's the clear message coming through from brilliant MPs and candidates who were defeated as much by Corbynism as by Conservatism."

Sir Keir is expected to receive the backing of dozens of MPs when the leadership contest begins in the new year, although his support for Mr Corbyn's radical policies has frustrated some on the party's right. One criticised his approach as "a pitch for a Labour Party that just lost 20 seats, not went crashing to the worst defeat in history".

As well as Emily Thornberry, 59, the shadow foreign secretary, who has already declared that she will stand, candidates from the non-Corbynite section of the party are expected to include Jess Phillips, 38, and Lisa Nandy, 40, both prominent backbenchers.

Despite expectations that Rebecca Long Bailey, 40, the shadow business secretary, would in effect be anointed as the candidate of Labour's left, there are signs of division. Clive Lewis, 48, a backer of Mr Corbyn who lost favour after he voted against triggering Article 50 and beginning the Brexit process in 2017, has declared his candidacy with a promise to give members more say than did Mr Corbyn.

Ian Lavery, 56, the party chairman, is also thought to be considering running. As a former president of the National Union of Mineworkers he could win the backing of big trade unions.

In the leader's footsteps

Rebecca Long Bailey, shadow business secretary, 40
A protégé of John McDonnell, she entered the Commons in 2015 but rose to seniority rapidly when most of Jeremy Corbyn's frontbench quit in 2016. She deputised for Mr Corbyn at prime minister's questions this year. The former solicitor is thought to have formed a joint leadership ticket with Angela Rayner, who will run for deputy but MPs have been surprised that she has said little since the general election.

Clive Lewis, shadow Treasury minister, 48
Like Ms Long Bailey he entered the shadow cabinet in 2016, just a year after becoming an MP. He quit in February 2017 to vote against triggering Article 50. Europe was his main split from the Corbyn project. He has pledged to give members more say than the outgoing leader, which could appeal to grassroots Corbynites.

Ian Lavery, Labour Party chairman, 56
Unlike the other two, Mr Lavery backed Andy Burnham in the 2015 leadership contest. But he quickly found his voice as a defender of Mr Corbyn's leadership. He was campaign co-ordinator for the election, in which his majority in Wansbeck was cut to 814 votes on a swing of more than 11 per cent.

Johnson to unveil Taskforce Europe

Henry Zeffman

Boris Johnson will run a new Brexit unit from the heart of government as he takes charge of the UK's next phase of negotiations with the European Union, it was reported yesterday.

The prime minister will rebrand the government's Brexit team as "Taskforce Europe" after the UK leaves the EU at the end of next month. It will be based in 10 Downing Street and the Cabinet Office and will have personal oversight from Mr Johnson.

The unit will be led by David Frost, Mr Johnson's Europe adviser, who took charge of the final withdrawal negotiations when Mr Johnson entered Downing Street in July.

The government has already announced that the Department for Exiting the European Union, which was formed by Theresa May in July 2016 to negotiate the UK's departure from the bloc, will be disbanded when Brexit finally happens on January 31.

The rebrand mirrors a similar initiative across the Channel, where Brussels has formed a "Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom" as it prepares for negotiations on a post-Brexit trade deal.

A government source said: "In 2020 we will move forward to establish a future relationship and free-trade agreement with the EU. Following the election the government has a clear and renewed mandate to achieve this. We want our new relationship to be based on an ambitious free-trade agreement and a close friendship between sovereign equals."

Last week Ursula von der Leyen, who replaced Jean-Claude Juncker as European Commission president at the start of the month, expressed "serious concern" over the likelihood of Brussels being able to negotiate a trade deal with the UK within Mr Johnson's 11-month time frame.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Les Echos* she said: "It seems to me that on both sides we must ask ourselves seriously if all these negotiations are feasible in such a short time."

Separately, Sajid Javid, the chancellor, has confirmed £3 billion of funding for British farmers after Brexit. The money will be used to support farmers when the existing common agricultural policy direct payments scheme ends. It will allow funding for direct payments for 2020 to continue at the same level as this year, and supplement the remaining EU funding that farmers will receive for development projects until 2023.

Mr Javid said: "When we leave the EU and are freed from the common agricultural policy we will be able to support our vital rural communities, who are a cornerstone of life in the UK, with a fairer and less bureaucratic system. Farmers can enter the new year with confidence that they have our backing and will be able to thrive after Brexit."

News

Shop assistants give way to jobs in tech

Miles Costello

Jobs as shop workers, bank clerks and typists have sharply declined in the past decade owing to the growth of online businesses and computer technology and are being replaced by careers in finance and computer programming.

An analysis of employment trends by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published today found the number of people carrying out administrative jobs as typists and telephonists had fallen by about two thirds in ten years. There had been a decline of more than 60,000 people employed as typists or in related occupations using keyboards. The jobs now employed 33,500 people compared with 96,300 a decade earlier.

Although the ONS said that in some cases its sample sizes were small and should be treated with caution, the change illustrates the move towards a more technological workforce.

The figures show that the number of moulders, die casters, printing machine assistants and those in footwear and leather-working trades also fell. The number of finance officers rose by more than 200 per cent and employees described as "business and financial project management professionals" increased by almost 300 per cent. There has been a big increase in actuaries, economists and statisticians. The number of senior care workers, scientists, waste disposal managers and vets has also risen.

The figures appear to show the heightened power of the financial sector and savings and investment culture, as part of the UK's transformation into a services-led economy.

Separate analysis by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) found that shifts in the labour market had hit employment levels among retail staff, cashiers, bank clerks and hairdressers particularly hard. The fastest growing professions included computer and software programmers, general administrators and finance managers.

The RSA said that the number of staff employed as cashiers and checkout operators had shrunk by almost a third.

In total 289,000 high street jobs have been lost over the past decade in a change with far more damaging effects on women, it said: of the jobs lost 81 per cent were women's. Alan Lockey, of the RSA's Future Work Centre, said: "Changes in the labour market reflect changes in society, so we can see the impact of public sector austerity, the decline of the high street and the rise of ecommerce reflected in these figures."

● Northern town centres are to benefit from a multimillion-pound investment programme, the government has announced. It follows recommendations from a panel chaired by Sir John Timpson of the Timpson shoe repair chain. All but two of 14 of the high streets selected for the first round of cash are in the north and the Midlands.

ROBERT PERRY

Finishing touches The annual exhibition of the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour, with 234 works by more than 100 artists, starts today in Edinburgh

Gypsy Wedding twin brothers are found dead

Hannah Mays

Twin brothers who appeared in the television series *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding* have died in a suspected joint suicide.

Billy and Joe Smith, 32, were found on a country road in woodland on Saturday morning in Sevenoaks. Kent police said that they were not treating the incident as suspicious and were compiling a report for the coroner.

The brothers appeared in the third series of *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding* on Channel 4 when they were 24. The programme filmed the brothers working as landscape gardeners in Britain and on holiday in Tenerife. In one episode they discussed the traveller lifestyle before getting married.

Tributes have been paid online by friends and relatives of the twins, who had their birthday this month. Billy's partner, Kristina Delaney, from Cheltenham, wrote on Facebook: "Hardest day of my life. RIP my perfect Bill you were so pure, so lovely."

Paddy Doherty, who also appeared in the series, wrote on Facebook: "There's always worse than yourself … Pray for the boys' family, the boys' mother and father, help them be strong and get through this."

At a wedding two weeks ago the brothers had recorded a video singing and dancing to Mariah Carey's *All I Want for Christmas Is You*.

An inquest into the deaths is expected to be held in the new year.

WAITROSE & PARTNERS

for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

San Leo Prosecco Brut NV Italy 75cl, was £9.99, now £7.49. Nyetimber Classic Cuvée NV West Sussex 75cl, was £36.99, now £27. Taittinger Brut Réserve NV Champagne 75cl, was £38, now £28. Selected stores and lines. Subject to availability. Offer ends 2 January 2020. Minimum online spend applies. Prices may vary in Channel Islands, Little Waitrose & Partners and concessions. Excludes motorway service stations, Welcome Break and petrol stations. Bottles shown for illustrative purposes. 18+ to purchase alcohol.

Gothic novelist's landmark tower saved from falling into ruin

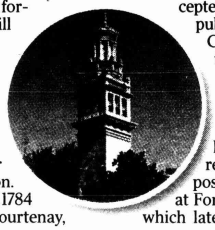
Jonathan Morrison
Architecture Correspondent

An extravagant Georgian folly that was once the home of the "richest commoner in England" is to be saved from decay thanks to a grant of almost £400,000.

Beckford's Tower, which overlooks Bath, was constructed in 1827 for the eccentric William Beckford, a profligate art collector, alleged paedophile, sometime politician and gothic novelist.

It was placed on the Heritage at Risk Register in October due to water penetrating through windows and into the distinctive wooden-framed lantern at the top.

The award of £390,900, announced by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will pay for urgent repairs to the grade II listed 120ft structure on Lansdown Hill. It also prepares the way for a later application for £2.5 million to illuminate the tower using renewable energy, conserve the cemetery surrounding it, and create a museum to shed light on Beckford's complex life and hold his library and art collection.



Beckford, author of the gothic novel *Vathek*, inherited a fortune, his estate at Fonthill and a number of Jamaican sugar plantations from his father, twice mayor of London, at the age of ten. It allowed him to indulge his fascination with the arts and briefly enter parliament as the MP for Wells and later for Hindon. He was forced into exile in 1784 when letters to William Courtenay, later Earl of Devon, were intercepted by the boy's uncle and published in newspapers; Courtenay had been only ten, and Beckford 18, when they first met.

On his subsequent travels throughout Italy he developed a love of architecture and returned to build an imposing gothic-revival house at Fonthill, the main tower of which later collapsed, and Beckford's Tower. He is chiefly remembered for the latter, made to a design by Henry Edmund Goodridge, and was later buried beside it.

"Beckford's Tower is one of our most significant 1820s British buildings and its setting on an escarpment above Bath, with its bright golden lantern, has been admired by generations," said Caroline Kay, the chief executive of Bath Preservation Trust, the conservation charity that acquired the tower in 1993.

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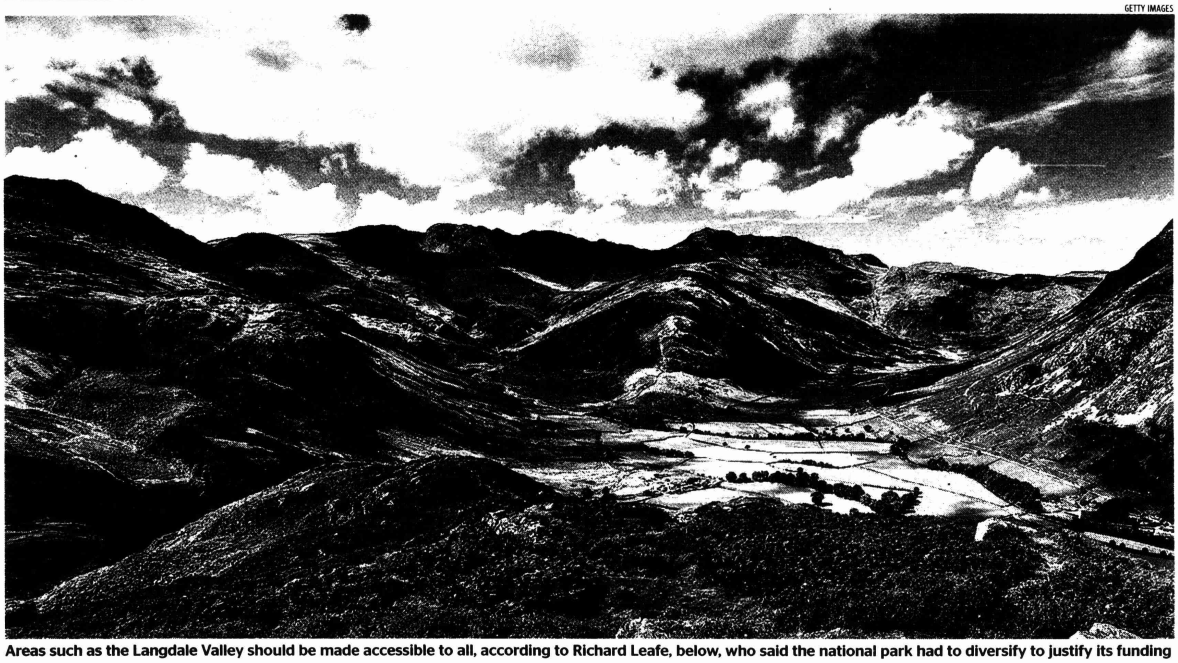


Areas such as the Langdale Valley should be made accessible to all, according to Richard Leafe, below, who said the national park had to diversify to justify its funding

Lake District must attract more disabled visitors, says park boss

Neil Johnston

The head of the authority that runs the Lake District National Park has said it must change and diversify to attract a greater range of visitors and not just one group of white middle-class, able-bodied people.

Richard Leafe, the park's chief executive, said that if the Unesco World Heritage site was seen as exclusive to one group it would lose its relevance and justification for being called a national park and receiving public funding.

His comments come after a government report into the future of Britain's protected landscapes criticised national parks for not doing enough to make people welcome.

In the Lake District the park's attempt to make scenery accessible is facing a High Court judicial review in the new year over its refusal to ban four-wheel drive vehicles from some fell trails on hills once owned by the author Beatrix Potter.

Keswick town council has also lost confidence in the park authorities after a decision to put a tarmac path through woodland.

However, Mr Leafe told Sky News that the park had to change and he wanted to make it accessible to all. "We are deficient in terms of young people; we are deficient in terms of black and minority-ethnic communities and we are not particularly well visited by those who are less able in terms of their mobility," he said.

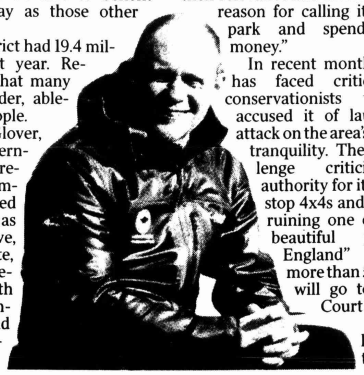
"Our challenge is to see what we can do to reverse that, to encourage people from broader backgrounds and a wider range of personal mobilities into the national park to be able to benefit in the same way as those other groups do."

The Lake District had 19.4 million visitors last year. Research showed that many tended to be older, able-bodied white people.

Julian Glover, author of the government report released in September, described national parks as an "exclusive, mainly white, mainly middle-class club, with rules only members understand and much too little done to encourage first-time visitors". Mr Leafe said he shared the concern that the park was too exclusive and that it would have to change this.

"We need to be able to sell the national park to everybody in Britain, all society, and it's important that it doesn't just become exclusive to one single-use group," he said.

"The moment we get into that position I think national parks start to lose their relevance and therefore the very reason for calling it a national park and spending public money."



In recent months the park has faced criticism from conservationists who have accused it of launching an attack on the area's beauty and tranquility. The legal challenge criticising the authority for its "refusal to stop 4x4s and motorbikes ruining one of the most beautiful places in England" has raised more than £30,000 and will go to the High Court next year.

An £8 million project to create an accessible multi-user trail with a tarmac surface between Keswick and Threlkeld has been criticised by Keswick councillors.

Paul Titley, a businessman who retired to the Lake District and is Keswick's deputy mayor, said that visitors were not entitled to expect that paths would not be muddy and should accept the ground as it is.

"We have a phenomenal selection of outdoor clothing shops here for a reason — come and buy them, come and put them on and get yourself out in the hills," he said. "If you get wet it won't hurt you, if you get cold put something else on."

Concerns have also been raised that the Lake District is being "loved to death" by tourists and that the National Trust is considering banning cars from certain areas.

Kate Willshaw, an officer for the Friends of the Lake District, said there were "honeypots" such as Bowness, Keswick and Windermere in the Lakes, which attract floods of tourists and massive congestion as a result.

She said: "They attract people because they are an easy win. You can get to them without driving on single-track roads, and the views are magnificent."

'Barbaric' crime gangs breed dogs to hunt deer

Hannah Mays

"Sick and barbaric" deer coursing set up by organised crime gangs is becoming a problem in rural Suffolk, a senior police officer said.

Sergeant Brian Calver, from Suffolk police's rural crime team, said the illegal blood sport was pervasive across the county, with dogs bred specifically to hunt deer.

"We know from looking at the hare coursers' phones that they're coursing deer as well," he said. "They go to remote areas where they're unlikely to be seen at night so it's one of those things where nine times out of ten it's discovered afterwards as opposed to people seeing it or hearing it going on.

"We've also got gangs coming down from Yorkshire with specifically bred dogs — a cross between a lurcher and a bull terrier — so they've got pace and power. We've had really big red stags taken by them. It's sick and barbaric.

"They're basically using vehicles to separate the deer from the herd and then they'll drop the dog out and if that dog tires, they'll drop another one out.

"Then they'll just discard the carcass, they'll leave it so it's not obvious and try to conceal it, but they'll leave it behind often without the legs, and they'll often take the head as a trophy as well," he told the *East Anglian Daily Times*.

Sergeant Calver, who was named Wildlife Enforcer of the Year 2019 by the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime, said that the crimes committed by those involved were unlikely to be limited to animal cruelty.

"You've got the damage they're causing in vehicles that are probably uninsured, they'll be driving dangerously to get away and carrying weapons," he said.

Thousands of poaching crimes go unreported every year, according to the British Deer Society, because many believe police will not take it seriously.

A spokesman for Suffolk police urged the public to report any suspicious activity. "If you're passionate about protecting the wildlife where you live, we need you to be our eyes and ears and report any suspicious activity to us.

"If you have any information about wildlife crime or believe you have witnessed a crime taking place, contact us on 101. If a crime is in progress, always dial 999."

Sergeant Calver said the force was working to raise awareness locally, particularly among the gamekeeping community.

"To be fair, it is getting better and we're getting there with the information but it's about being able to tie it all together to intelligence we can act on," he added.

News Scholarship row

Snubbed donor offers his bursaries to state schools

Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

A philanthropist is looking for state schools to accept his offer of scholarships for poor white boys after two leading private institutions said that taking the money would be against their values.

Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites said he was "surveying the field" of first-class state academies that would be "only too glad to accept money" on his terms.

He had approached Winchester and Dulwich colleges, which dismissed his offer. The schools are among the most expensive in England, charging maximum fees of about £40,000 a year.

Both are trying to broaden their intake by offering financial support to those unable to afford the fees. Dulwich has an ambition for half its pupils to be on scholarships or bursaries. Neither wants to put ethnic restrictions on who can benefit from financial help.

Winchester was founded nearly 640 years ago by William of Wykeham to educate the "poor and needy". Its alumni include the former Tory MP Nick Boles; the Labour Party strategist Seumas Milne; and the military historian Sir Antony Beevor.

Dulwich was established 400 years ago by the actor Edward Alleyn for poor scholars. Its old boys include Nigel Farage, PG Wodehouse and Bob Monkhouse. Sir Bryan attended both schools — Dulwich until the start of the Second World War, then Winchester. His father was a chartered surveyor and his mother a civil servant. She had to leave her job when she married.

They could not have afforded the fees for Sir Bryan and his brother without scholarships, which is why he wants to make available to others the education from which he benefited. He said: "It's an extremely important issue of interpretation of the law. I have done a lot for both schools over the years and have been closely involved in them. All the more, therefore, do I feel that both schools have made a strategic mistake in their interpretation of legislation."

Dulwich has 191 pupils, aged seven to 18, who are in receipt of means-tested bursaries, which range from 10 per cent to 100 per cent of school fees. Most receive more than 75 per cent.

Dulwich College said: "Bursaries are awarded to those boys who pass the college's entrance examinations and interview, but whose families are unable to afford the school fees in full or in part. No other selection criteria are applied. Only very few members of staff are aware of which pupils hold bursaries.

"The college's ambition is for 50 per cent of pupils at Dulwich to be in receipt of fee relief through scholarships and, increasingly, means-tested bursaries. This figure is currently 30 per cent.

"The community at Dulwich is proudly diverse, both socio-economically and ethnically, reflecting our location in southeast London. This is not a manufactured diversity, but results from families being attracted to Dulwich College because they want their sons to receive an excellent education at a school where diversity and service to others are valued and fostered."

Joe Spence, the master of the college, added: "We are extremely grateful to the many benefactors who support the college's bursary fund ... I am, however, resistant to awards made with any ethnic or religious criteria. Bursaries are an engine of social mobility and they should be available to all who pass our entrance examinations, irrespective of their background."

Winchester College said: "The school, in common with many universities, has outreach schemes aimed at carefully selected and underrepresented communities.

"The school will always continuingly discuss with benefactors the effective delivery of their intentions. But the trustees are clear, having consulted widely, that acceptance of a bequest of this nature would neither be in the interests of the school as a charity nor the specific interests of those it aims to support through its work ... the school does not see how discrimination on grounds of a boy's colour could ever be compatible with its values."

Timothy Hands, the headmaster of Winchester, said: "The college has reached a decision only after long and careful consultation, based on clear reasons, openly published. It looks forward to continuing to discuss ways forward with Sir Bryan and regrets any disappointment caused to him so far."

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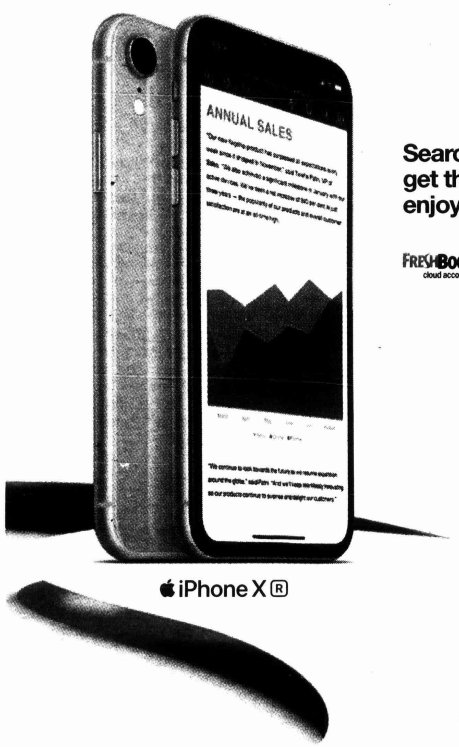
Love your work



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Stormzy says

Billy Kenber

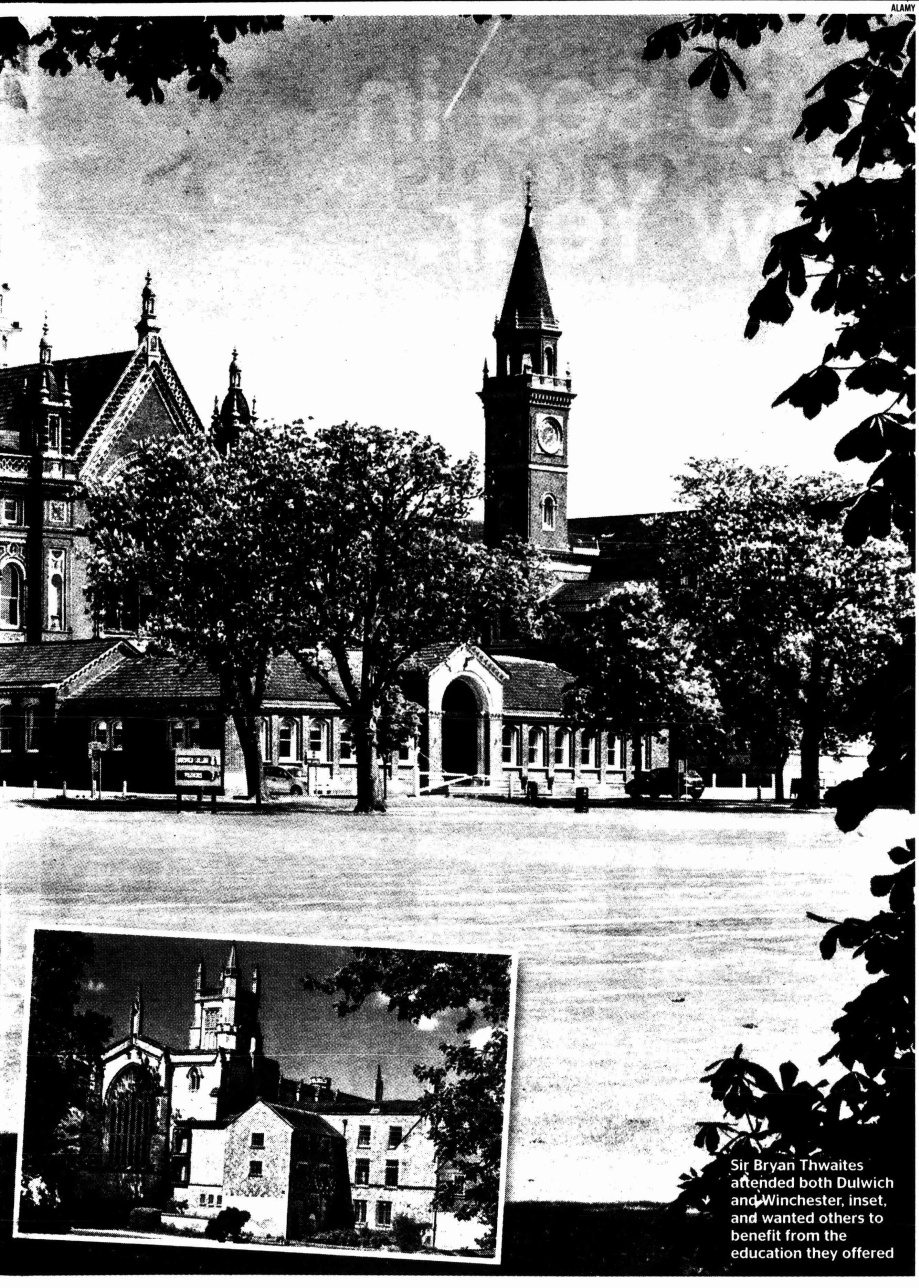
In August 2018 as A-level students were nervously opening their results the grime artist Stormzy returned to his old school in south London to announce that he was funding a new scholarship for black students at Cambridge.

The 26-year-old musician said that he would personally pay the tuition fees and living costs of four Cambridge students in an effort to encourage more black students to apply.

The "Stormzy scholarship" prompted accusations of racism because only students of black heritage are eligible. Stormzy addressed the backlash in his top 5 single *Crown*, rapping: "I done a scholarship for the kids, they said it's racist/ That's not anti-white, it's pro-black."

He told BBC Radio 1 that the scholarship was a means to create an equal playing field and that he had not realised how many people were seemingly unaware of the disadvantages that

ALAMY



Sir Bryan Thwaites attended both Dulwich and Winchester, inset, and wanted others to benefit from the education they offered

Underdogs of the education system trail their peers

Nicola Woolcock

Poor white boys have become the underdogs of the school system and show no sign of catching up with their peers.

The difference in attainment between richer pupils and their disadvantaged classmates has closed slightly since 2011, a cause for much celebration in government. However, when results are broken down by ethnicity, it appears that the improved results among poorer pupils are largely down to the achievement of non-white children.

This is exacerbated when gender is taken into the equation.

White boys from poorer homes are the least likely of any category, other than Roma or gypsy, to go to university.

A recent report by the National Education Opportunity Network said that these boys were far more likely to go to further education colleges or less selective newer universities. More than 50 per cent of universities had fewer than 5 per cent of pupils from such backgrounds.

"Most higher education providers do not target outreach work explicitly at this group," the report said.

The government uses a measure called "attainment 8" in school league tables, based on the average point scores across eight GCSEs.

Chinese boys on free school meals achieved 52.9 points in this year's GCSEs, for those from Indian homes it was 44.3 and for black Africans it was 37.7. White British boys on free school meals had a score of 28.2, just higher than black Caribbean boys on 28.1.

White boys from more affluent homes did worse on average than some poorer ethnic classmates, with a point score of 45.3. The best results were achieved by Chinese girls from well-off backgrounds, with a score of 66.7, but even poorer Chinese girls had an attainment 8 score of 60.8.

While Stormzy has set up scholarships for black students at Cambridge, Professor Green, a white fellow rapper, has called for more help for working-class white boys.

Professor Green, who grew up on a council estate in east London and left school without qualifications, told *The Guardian* last year: "For working-class families, in some instances school is just school. You are not expected to do very well. You are expected to get out and do a job and earn. People have to be encouraged from early on to engage with education and think it's for them."

At around the same time, Angela Rayner, the shadow education secretary, who left school at 16 when pregnant, said that white working-class children should be motivated to become more aspirational. She suggested that tackling gender and race discrimination may have inadvertently had a negative impact on the amount of attention paid to white working-class boys.

Professor Peter Edwards has been tasked by the Royal Society of Chemistry to drive up inclusion for white boys from low income families. The Oxford academic said recently that engaging white boys from poor backgrounds was harder than encouraging girls to study science and maths.

In a letter to the *Financial Times* he said: "Understanding and reversing this level of engagement and under-attainment for this group of young people is not only critical for chemistry, but also for the country to flourish."

his grants are pro-black, not anti-white

young black students faced. "It's not everyone's fault that they don't understand that gap," he said. "I genuinely have to explain that there is a barrier for young black people."

Two successful applicants who started at Cambridge last year were selected to receive the scholarship and two more were chosen a few months ago. Their identities have not been revealed "to enable them to settle into university life without any additional pressures" but Stormzy is kept updated on their progress.

The rapper, who had ambitions of attending Oxford or Cambridge, said he had set up the scholarship because there was "a whole bunch of academically brilliant, excellent students who also need an incentive".

He said that black students were under-represented at Cambridge and other leading universities and he wanted the scholarship to serve "as a small reminder that if young black students wish to study at one of the best universities in the world, then the opportunity is yours for the taking and if funding is one of the barriers, then we can work towards breaking that barrier down."

Stephen Toope, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, has praised the scholarships as a "beacon for black students who might otherwise have felt they could not come to Cambridge".

The scholarship was announced after the *Financial Times* reported that some Cambridge colleges had not admitted any black students between 2012 and 2016.

Stormzy has said that he originally approached the University of Oxford with the idea but was turned down. The university said that it had never had a formal proposal but "took responsibility for missing this opportunity".

Stormzy is funding four scholarships at Cambridge

The scholarship is one of several available for students from black and ethnic minority backgrounds. Others include a scholarship sponsored by the Bank of England that gives £5,000 towards the study costs of a student who has applied for an internship at the bank and is open to those from a black or mixed African/Caribbean background with a household income of less than £50,000.

The Akindole Medical Scholarship offers a £1,500 bursary to a black or ethnic minority medical student and the Amos Bursary partnered with King's College London to offer two £1,000-a-year scholarships to male undergraduates of Afro-Caribbean descent.

We drafted equality laws for all, regardless of colour

Trevor Phillips
Comment

Many of our finest schools understand the passion of the formerly oppressed to climb the ladder offered by education. They enthusiastically pack their dorms with the children of African and Asian billionaires.

Yet, as the experience of one of our most distinguished educators has demonstrated, they are not always so keen to offer the same opportunity to other poor but clever children even if someone else is prepared to pay. And the reason is, shockingly, entirely to do with race.

Sir Bryan Thwaites celebrated his 96th birthday this month, after a long and distinguished academic career. He was a scholarship boy at Dulwich College and Winchester College. I have no doubt that in his own childhood, he can see the impact of better access to a good education for underprivileged children, in much the same way that I can from my postwar immigration experience. As he approached his personal centenary Sir Bryan sought to parlay his own good fortune into concrete backing for the ambitions of bright boys like himself. Dulwich and Winchester were offered bequests, respectively, of £400,000 and £800,000, to provide bursaries for underprivileged white British boys. Both schools declined to accept. Their reasons were similar, both ethical and legal. My alarm at their refusal principally lies in their faulty understanding of the law.

This is not what we intended when we drafted the equality laws. As one of the authors of the 2010 Equality Act, I can see that the schools' lawyers read it as though it were constructed purely to favour people of colour. It is not; it is designed to ensure equality, and in this case, the disadvantaged, under-represented group happened to be white.

Sir Bryan wanted to do the right thing by families who need support.

The guardians of our great schools should not be putting their own insecurities and sensitivities between his generosity and young people of talent. Being of a pragmatic disposition, he isn't hanging around hoping that his alma maters will change their minds. One state school has already accepted his offer. Ironically, but not surprisingly, its headmaster is black. Bad luck, Dulwich and Winchester.

Savings to see in the New Year.
£7
£6
3 for 2
Chilled party food
£16
Selected 1L spirits
10 Tempura King Prawns
12 Mini Pies
6 Steak & Ale and
6 Chicken & Ham Hock
12 MOZZARELLA STICKS
FAMOUS GROUSE
Gordons
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Households hit by 40% fuel bill rise in five years

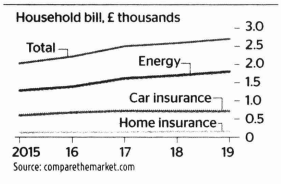
Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Household bills have risen to a record £2,707 a year, with the average family paying 40 per cent more for their gas and electricity than they did five years ago, research shows.

The annual survey of the cost of heating and lighting a home, paying for buildings and contents insurance and car cover found that bills have increased by more than three times the rate of inflation since 2015.

Energy bills have increased the most, with households now paying an average of £1,813 a year. In 2015 the average dual fuel bill was £1,289. The average home is paying £107 more for energy than a year ago despite the introduction of the energy price cap.

Up and up



The cap, which has closed the gap between the most expensive and cheapest deals, has led many suppliers to raise their average prices, in particular the Big Six, which make up a large majority of the market.

Simon McCulloch, director at comparethemarket.com, the price comparison website that conducted the study, said: "A lot of attention during the general election was devoted to financial difficulties that many people face around the UK. These statistics are a stark reminder of not only the high cost of essential services but of the huge increases that have been seen in the past few years. The average cost of energy and motor and home insurance is now £675 higher than in 2015."

The analysis did not take into account the cost of broadband, home phone, mobile and TV services, which add many hundreds of pounds to bills. Council tax also increased by 4.5 per cent on average this year, more than twice the rate of inflation.

The research found that households in London were paying the most for their bills at £3,129 a year, more than £400 above the national average, with the West Midlands second at £2,910.

The cheapest region to live was Scotland, where households spent only £2,470 every year on bills. Energy bills alone were £120 cheaper in Scotland than in London despite it being colder. The biggest difference was in car insurance: the average car insurance bill in the capital was £1,102 a year compared with £584 in Scotland. The analysis showed that across the country car insurance bills were on average 19 per cent more expensive than five years ago.

Comparethemarket warned motorists that the cost of cover was likely to rise sharply over the next year because of mooted delays to reform of personal injury claims for whiplash injuries and changes to the Ogden rate, which is used to calculate compensation to victims of road crashes.

The average home insurance bill has increased by a quarter since 2015, compared with inflation of about 11 per cent.

Mr McCulloch recommended that families shopped around to resist the rising bills.

"With the average saving for these products standing at £482, shopping around clearly goes a long way to mitigating the dramatic bill increases we have seen in recent years," he added.

IMAGNO/GETTY IMAGES

Acclaimed works such as the Duke of Wellington, left, and Majas on a Balcony are attributed to the Spanish artist Francisco de Goya

Shadow of doubt over dozens of Goya works

Many paintings apparently by Francisco de Goya will have to be reattributed, according to a British art historian and expert on the Spanish painter (David Sanderson writes).

Juliet Wilson-Bareau, who has curated Goya exhibitions in London and Madrid, said that almost every institution "that's got a Goya has also got a problematic Goya" that was probably painted by his studio assistants.

The art historian said the source of the problem was an 1812 inventory of the studio of the Spanish artist, who died in 1828 and who is sometimes described as the last of the Old Masters and first of the moderns.

She said she now concluded that "dozens" of the works listed had been by some of his many studio assistants and that documentary evidence indicated that "Goya and non-Goya works" were being bought "under the same label".

"It's a minefield," she told *The Observer*. "Pictures that have become doubtful are still being presented as 'by Goya', knowingly or unknowingly."

She added: "We've been aware of the problems for many years, but everybody's got to do their research now. Almost every museum that's got a Goya has also got a problematic Goya. Some are quite clearly later fakes, but many were by his studio assistants."

Her claims highlight the problems of attribution with doubts still circulating about how much involvement Leonardo da Vinci's assistants had in *Salvator Mundi*, the world's most expensive painting.

Ms Wilson-Bareau said that there was "trepidation" in downgrading a "Goya" given the value of his paintings in the art market.

Price comparison 'quirks' can increase cost of cover

Andrew Ellson

Price comparison website users could end up paying more for their insurance or get less cover, according to *Which?*

The consumer group reviewed home insurance quotes from comparison websites and uncovered a series of pricing and policy quirks because of assumptions the websites make.

Which? ran test quotes to insure the homes of three real people on the four biggest comparison websites. Each quote assumed one of six scenarios involving details that some comparison sites did not ask about, or only partially.

When using a comparison site to buy home insurance, customers are asked a single set of questions agreed by the insurers on the panel rather than answering each insurer's more comprehensive set of application questions. *Which?* said this can lead to insurers receiving slightly different information from the comparison sites about customers to base their prices on, and relying on assumptions where detail is missing.

It found four assumptions that pushed premiums up significantly. The biggest was the result of a false assumption about flooding history. Some comparison sites only ask if a home has ever been flooded, not when, with some insurers interpreting a positive response to mean a flood has happened within the past five or 10 years. Correcting this brought one test quote down from £704 to £291, another from £429 to £142.

Which? also uncovered four factors that resulted in artificially reduced premiums, which could leave homeowners without proper cover.

Jenny Ross, editor of *Which? Money*, said: "Comparison sites are designed to save us time and money, so it's concerning to see that using one could leave people paying more than necessary or taking out cover that isn't suitable."

Bottom falls out of Bordeaux wine sales

Adam Sage Paris

The heads of Bordeaux's winemaking syndicates are demanding a 20 per cent cut in production to offset falling sales.

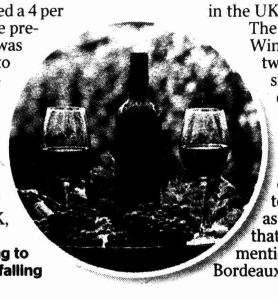
The slump is a consequence of shifting habits in France, where drinkers are abandoning claret in favour of rosé, and of difficulties in export markets, notably the UK, the US, and Hong Kong.

"Bordeaux has witnessed an unprecedented crisis in recent months," said Bernard Farges, chairman of the Interprofessional Committee of Bordeaux Wines, which represents the region's 5,800 vineyards. Sales in the 12 months to July had fallen by 12 per cent in volume and by 4 per cent in value compared with the same period the previous year, he added.

Mr Farges said Bordeaux vineyards, which have produced an average of 5.1 million hectolitres of wine over the past decade, needed to regulate supply. "We can't carry on producing five million hectolitres and only selling four million unless we consider that the law of the jungle is our project." A hectolitre is 100 litres and most bottles are 75cl.

Marc Médeville, chairman of the Union of Bordeaux Wines, issued a similar alert to vineyards: "We should be aware that about a third of production doesn't have an outlet at the moment. It is imperative that we balance supply and demand."

Last year Bordeaux's winemakers sold 626 million bottles for €4.01 billion, which represented a 4 per cent increase over the previous year. The rise was largely attributable to export success, notably in Hong Kong, which bought claret worth €327 million. There were also significant increases in sales to the US, which bought €279 million and to the UK, where imports totalled €225 million. However, Bordeaux registered a 7 per cent fall in sales in France last year compared with 2017. The fall appears to have continued in France this year but is not being compensated by exports.



The French are turning to rosé and exports are falling

Bordeaux's wine merchants say they have been hit by the political turmoil in Hong Kong, by a 25 per cent increase in wine tariffs in the US, an economic slowdown in China and uncertainties in the UK over Brexit.

The Union of Bordeaux Wines has put forward two proposals designed to reduce production. The first is to pay vineyards to tear up their wines. The second is to give them a subsidy of €40 per hectolitre to sell their produce as cheap table wine that would not even mention that it came from Bordeaux on the label.

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Currys PC World

Synagogue and shops targeted in racist attack

Katie Gibbons

Police are investigating after antisemitic graffiti was daubed across a synagogue wall and shop windows in north London during the Jewish festival of Chanukkah.

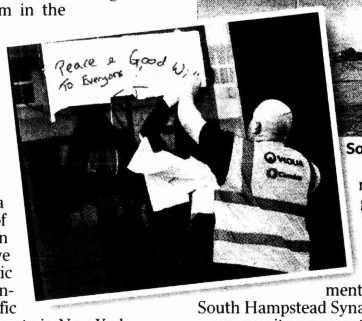
The star of David and the date "9.11" were sprayed in red and purple on several premises in Hampstead and Belsize Park, including South Hampstead Synagogue, on Saturday night.

The message appears to reflect a conspiracy theory that Jews were responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It was discovered less than two hours after five people were stabbed at a rabbi's home in New York state.

Police received reports of vandalism at 11.30pm on Saturday and were treating the graffiti as a racially motivated hate crime. The Community Security Trust, a non-profit organisation that seeks to protect British Jews from harassment, said that it had received numerous alerts about the graffiti. It was in contact with police and was reviewing CCTV at the synagogue.

Dave Rich, the trust's director of policy, said: "This disgusting antisemitic graffiti was clearly the work of someone determined to spread their hatred as widely as possible. We are pleased the police and council have acted quickly to remove it and we hope it will be fully investigated."

Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader, who has been accused of failing to tackle antisemitism in the party, sent a message of "love and solidarity" to Jewish communities.



Mr Corbyn tweeted: "How terrible that Chanukkah started with a message of hope and on this last day we face antisemitic graffiti in London and horrific stabbings at a party in New York.

"We stand with all our communities facing hate. We send love and solidarity to Jewish communities around the world." Camden council said yesterday that its street cleaning teams were removing the graffiti as quickly and sensitively as possible.

In a statement last night South Hampstead Synagogue said: "As a community, we regret the rise of hate speech in society. Social media is polluted with xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, misogyny, racism and antisemitism. Sadly, these things are connected. This is a time for people of all backgrounds — of all faiths and of none — to stand united and show our determination that we do not tolerate prejudice, hate and division."

Oliver Cooper, a Conservative councillor for Hampstead, told *The Guardian*: "I've had to report antisemitic graffiti in Hampstead a number of times before, including by a banned neo-Nazi group, but I have never seen anything approaching this extent."

The Metropolitan Police said that no arrests had been made.

New York stabbings, page 29

SWNS

Some of the graffiti is thought to relate to a 9/11 conspiracy

Hate crime charges in just 1% of cases

Fewer than 1 per cent of cases investigated by the first police unit for tackling hate crime have led to charges.

The Metropolitan Police logged 1,851 incidents between April 2017 when its online hate crime hub was set up and August this year. Charges have been brought in 17 cases, or 0.92 per cent, according to figures obtained under freedom of information laws. Seven of those have led to prosecutions, while three other cases are pending a charging decision.

Scotland Yard said that the unit now dealt with online and offline cases and reviewed every hate crime reported day by day.

Hate crime offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales reached a record 103,379 in 2018-19, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous year.

The low number of charges is thought to be due to the high charging threshold for online hate crimes and the difficulties investigators face in obtaining information from social media companies.

Susan Hall, a Conservative London assembly member, described the hub, which was set to cost £1.7 million over two years when it was set up by Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, as "an exercise in spin over substance".

A spokesman for Mr Khan said: "The Met has made huge progress in tackling all forms of hate crime but it's clear more needs to be done."

News

GUZELIAN

Hissy fit Swans on the Calder and Hebble Navigation near Elland, West Yorkshire, saw off an inquisitive West Highland terrier

HS2 a bottomless pit for taxpayers' cash, says adviser

Neil Johnston

An advocate of the HS2 railway has said that it risked becoming a bottomless pit for taxpayers' money and that the team in charge of it should be replaced.

Roderick Smith, a former chief scientific adviser at the Department for Transport, called on the prime minister to overhaul the planned multibillion-pound 250mph line.

Boris Johnson is expected to announce within weeks whether the project for a Y-shaped network connecting London, Birmingham and the north of England will go ahead or be scrapped or scaled back. He is examining a review of the line, the biggest infrastructure project in Europe, which would cut journey times and increase capacity on the rail network but which has faced heavy criticism over spiralling costs.

Professor Smith, emeritus professor in the faculty of engineering at Imperial College London, said that he was a "passionate proponent of high-speed rail" but told *The Mail on Sunday* that he was appalled that costs had risen from £55.7 billion to an estimated £88 billion. "They [the company HS2] don't seem to regard it with any sort of alarm," he said. "It's shrugged off with, 'Well, all big projects go through this phase.' I don't think that is true. This is an opportunity to take stock and to rethink.

"If we don't seize this opportunity we are just going to go deeper and deeper into a bottomless pit of expense and end up with an unsatisfactory railway."

He added that the government should "get rid of the management team and get people who know what they are doing".

Professor Smith said that he had helped Lord Adonis, the transport secretary in Gordon Brown's government, to come up with plans for a high-speed network but that civil servants at the time had failed to emulate the success of high-speed rail in countries such as Japan.

A draft copy of the government review leaked to *The Times* last month said that the project should go ahead despite the extra cost and a drop in the benefit to taxpayers. The leaked document recommended that the government commit itself to the full high-speed rail network but admitted that it was "not affordable" within the £56 billion budget set in the 2015 government spending review.

Bob Seely, a government aide who resigned in July over the scheme, warned that it did not represent value for money and could undermine other projects that would benefit the north.

Mr Seely, a member of the HS2 review group of Tory MPs, urged the prime minister to prioritise projects that would link northern cities and start HS2 only once these links had been completed.

Writing in *The Daily Telegraph* Mr Seely, the MP for the Isle of Wight, said: "The critical question the prime minister must ask is this: will HS2 actually undermine the infrastructure revolution because so much money and industry capacity will be focused on one project, which won't deliver for the best part of 15 years, long after this government has gone? The danger is that HS2 won't so much trigger the infrastructure revolution as stall it."

HS2 said that its plans had been "tested and refined" over ten years of scrutiny by parliament, the public and engineers and that it was awaiting the outcome of the government review.

A spokesman added that it was "absolutely integral" to the infrastructure plans of northern leaders and that it was the "only shovel-ready project that will work towards rebalancing the economy, provide much-needed capacity which will benefit commuters up and down the country and help the UK reach our target of net-zero carbon emissions".

IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

SPORT
ALYSON RUDD
The women leading football's broadcasting revolution
MAIN PAPER

BUSINESS
PATRICK HOSKING
My wooden spoon of the year awards
PULLOUT

TIMES2
ESTHER WALKER
How I tried – and failed – to be an influencer
PULLOUT

COMMENT
James Kirkup
Why China matters more than Brexit
MAIN PAPER

'Police state' fear over Hogmanay guest limit

Mike Wade

GETTY IMAGES

Hogmanay celebrations that attract thousands of tourists to Edinburgh have set off a row with residents

Those living right on the doorstep of Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations are used to the crowds, the noise and the flash of fireworks every year.

But there was almost a neighbourhood uprising when it appeared that they might have to limit party guests in their own homes during the city's official festivities.

Before Christmas, those living in the roads cordoned off for the ticketed Hogmanany street party were told that they could apply for residents' passes to allow guests to get to their homes.

The initial guidelines, published online by Underbelly, the private company that runs the festivities, suggested that they could have up to six passes. If that was not enough, a "reasonable" number of extras could be applied for.

Residents in the city were furious at the "dystopian" limitation and claimed a "social curfew" had been imposed on private parties in their homes while up to 75,000 revellers celebrate outside.

In an attempt to avoid a damaging row, the council has since promised that the celebrations will be "citizen-centred".

Yesterday Underbelly stressed that residents and their guests would be able to come and go as they pleased but the furore has reignited a fierce debate about "over-tourism", with heritage organisations and residents' groups warning of a city "hollowed out" by the number of visitors.

In a tweet the best-selling author Val McDermid described the apparent limitations on residents' guests as an outrage, adding: "Not even a police state: a private company curtailing the rights of citizens."

Donald Wilson, convenor of the council's culture and communities committee, said that it was consulting on a new tourism strategy which was "clearly aimed at Edinburgh citizens, and what they want by way of a tourism industry".

This new focus did not mean that residents' needs had been overlooked this year, Mr Wilson insisted. "It is a reflection of the fact that the debate on tourism worldwide has actually shifted," he said. "With increased numbers we are at a point where we have to think about how we best sustainably manage tourism in this city and worldwide."

Edinburgh's Hogmanay was formally established in the early 1990s by Unique Events, a local company, and an access system for local residents was put in place well before Underbelly won a contract to produce the event three years ago. In November Underbelly was criticised by civic groups for the scale of its Christmas market in East Princes Street Gardens, where it dominates the public park and includes a platform which was built without planning permission.

The company's co-founders, Ed Bartlam and Charlie Wood, have also been criticised on social media, partly for being old Etonians. Mr Wood said: "It doesn't matter where you come from. Ed and I would only want to be judged on the quality of the events we put on. But there is definitely a thing here. You need to be an event organiser as much as a politician with a small 'p'.

"Bizarrely, with the whole 'Christmas storm' every year, we get called by at least one other city asking, 'Could you put on Christmas in our city?'

"The success of Edinburgh's Christmas over the last six weeks is absolutely extraordinary. Hogmanay the same."

Visitor numbers at the Christmas market have increased, Mr Wood said, with the market's popularity rising most notably among local residents.

Profits from the market compensate for cuts to council funding for Hogmanay, which has been reduced by £2 million to £800,000 over the past seven years. This year the DJ Mark Ronson, Marc Almond, the singer formerly of Soft Cell, the indie band Idlewild and Ronnie Scott's Big Band will perform.

Last year's three-day festival boosted the city's economy by an estimated £39.2 million.

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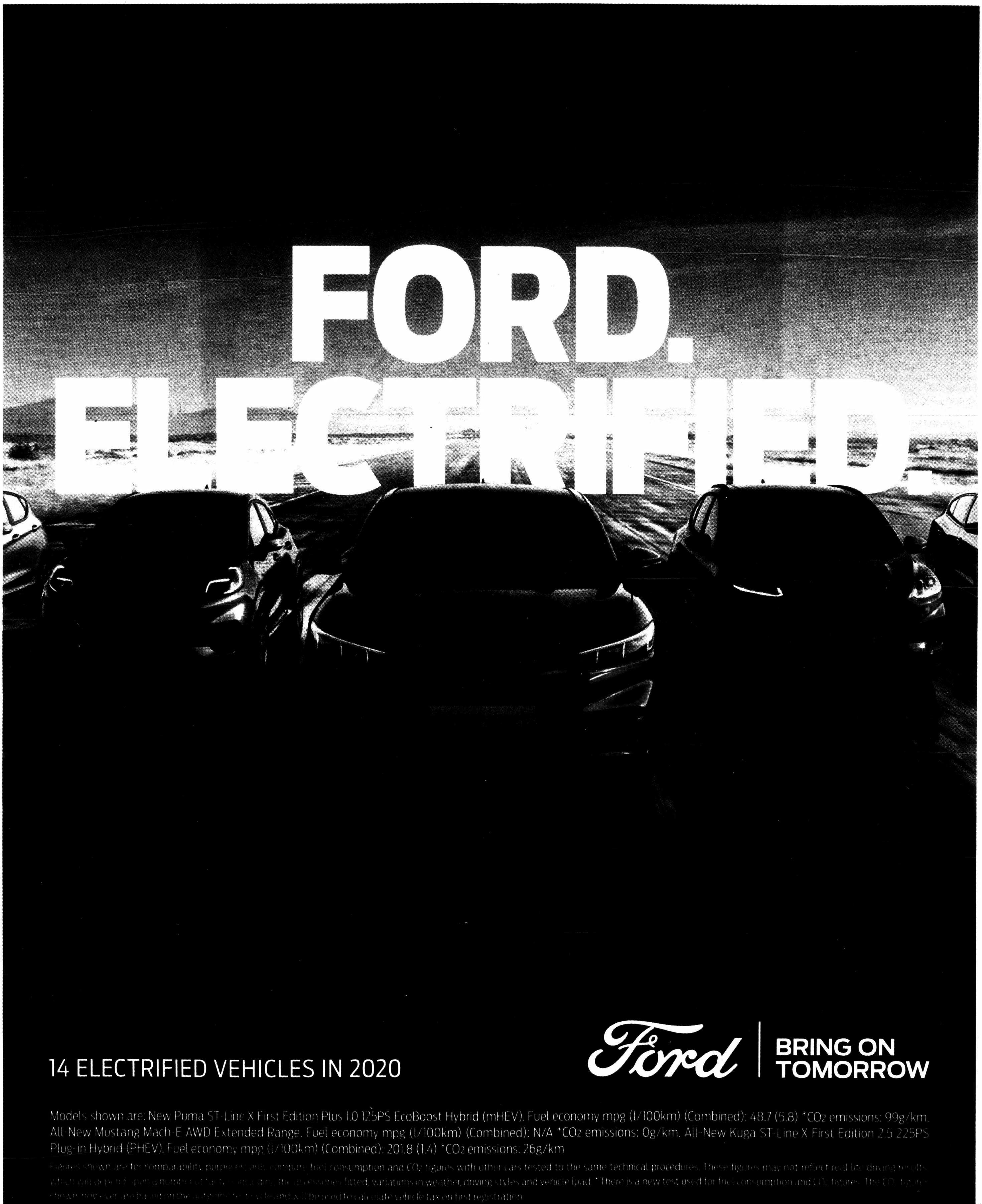

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'Sacked' Wentworth chief sues billionaire owner for race bias

Andrew Ellson

DAVID CANNON/GETTY IMAGES

Stephen Gibson, a former professional, is said to be involved in a legal fight with Chanchai Ruayrungruang who took over the Wentworth club five years ago

One of Britain's most exclusive golf clubs has become embroiled in a row involving its former chief executive who is allegedly suing the Chinese-Thai owner for unfair dismissal and racial discrimination.

Stephen Gibson is said to be bringing a legal claim against Wentworth, home of the BMW PGA Championship, and is demanding £750,000 in damages.

Mr Gibson, 49, who had been employed by the club for more than ten years, was replaced by Woraphanit Ruayrungruang, the 29-year-old daughter of Chanchai Ruayrungruang, a billionaire businessman also known as Yan Bin, who bought the club in 2014 from Richard Caring, the entertainment tycoon, for £130 million.

Mr Gibson, a former professional golfer, had been appointed as chief executive after the takeover by Reignwood, the Chinese-based company owned by Dr Ruayrungruang. *The Sunday Telegraph* reported that sources within the Surrey club had suggested that Mr Gibson's legal challenge was being funded by a wealthy Wentworth resident said to be appalled at the way the club was being run.

Mr Gibson told the newspaper: "I confirm that I have initiated legal proceedings against Reignwood. While proceedings are ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment any further."

In a club notice sent to members in the spring Ms Ruayrungruang wrote: "We would like to inform you that Stephen Gibson has left Wentworth Club as of today. Stephen has been an integral part of Wentworth Club for the past 12 years. We thank him for the service and wish him the very best for the future.

"Whilst the club goes through the process of appointing a new CEO, an interim management committee is in place led by myself as interim CEO. I would like to use this opportunity to reiterate Reignwood's long-term commitment to Wentworth Club, its staff and its members."

The grounds on which Mr Gibson feels he has been racially discriminated against are unclear. When *The Times* contacted the club to ask about the claim, a spokesman said: "We do not wish to comment on an ongoing legal proceeding."

The legal challenge is the latest in a series of controversies at the club, which was established in 1922, since it was bought five years ago. Shortly afterwards Dr Ruayrungruang announced plans to force its 4,000 members to reapply for only 800 places, with the chosen few having to pay £100,000 for debenture membership.

A group of members fought an unsuccessful legal battle against the plans. The TV presenter Sir Michael Parkinson, who was a member, accused the owners of trying to create a club for the super rich with a "car park full of Lamborghinis".

This summer the club upset its members further by stripping out honours boards in the clubhouse and its Burma Bar in a £13 million refurbishment.

The latest accounts show that the company that runs the club lost £16 million in 2018, following a loss of £12 million in 2017. In a letter to members Neil Coulson, the general manager since the summer, said the most recent accounts would "demonstrate the positive impact of the initiatives introduced".

The Sunday Telegraph reported that a number of members intended to quit at the end of the year rather than pay an extra £65,000 to take up a full debenture. Members were offered debentures at a discounted price of £85,000 and several will forfeit a £20,000 deposit. New members must pay £150,000 as well as an annual fee of about £10,000.

The Times was unable to contact Mr Gibson for comment.

Pool deaths widow wants to hold her own inquiry

A woman whose husband and two children drowned in a pool while on holiday in the Costa del Sol is not satisfied that their deaths were a simple accident and could seek more investigations, her lawyer has said.

Olubunmi Diya lost her daughter, Comfort Diya, 9, son, Praise-Emmanuel Diya, 16, and husband, Gabriel Diya, 52, on Christmas Eve at the Club La Costa World in Fuengirola. She has said that all three could swim and added that something was wrong with the Spanish hotel's pool. Javier Toro, her lawyer, said that different engineers could be brought in to investigate after the police said that their own findings pointed to a tragic accident.

The hotel's operator, CLC World Resorts and Hotels, has said that Mrs Diya's claims were "directly at odds with the findings of the police report". It emphasised that the police's "exhaustive investigations have confirmed the pool was working normally and there was no malfunction of any kind".

A translation of a Guardia Civil statement, released by the hotel operator, said that tests had found no irregularity in the pool's system. Investigations indicated that the accident had been "caused by the lack of expertise of the victims when swimming".

Mr Toro said, however: "It's very rare for three people to die in the centre of a swimming pool, especially in the case of a tall, hefty man. Something must have happened apart from a simple error or simple accident."

He added: "We do not discard the option of opening a parallel investigation through different engineers ... to figure out what happened."

Mrs Diya has said that her family, who were on holiday with another unharmed daughter, had not been left unattended and were somehow "dragged into the middle" of the pool. They had followed at all times the instructions displayed by the poolside.

Mr Diya's Facebook account lists him as a pastor at Open Heavens London, a Christian group with origins in Nigeria, based in Charlton, southeast London. It is part of the Redeemed Christian Church of God and worships at the St Richard's Church Centre in Charlton.

About five wellwishers arrived at the centre yesterday morning to pay their respects but left after it appeared that no service would be taking place.

Mrs Diya's cousin Doyin Akintokun called for further investigation, adding: "The damage is done: nothing can bring this family back."

Daughters lose out in family firms

Family firms are still mostly being handed down to sons rather than daughters, research suggests.

Those who inherited a business usually did so from their father or grandfather rather than a female member of the family, according to the study by Cynergy Bank. It said sons were twice as likely as daughters to take over a family firm, especially in sectors such as construction.

The bank said that its research among more than 1,000 smaller businesses showed many believed it was "only natural" for sons to inherit.

Nick Fahy, chief executive of Cynergy Bank, said: "Historically family businesses have overlooked female leadership talent and handed their businesses down to sons and nephews. It's disappointing to see that this is still the case.

"Family businesses make a significant contribution to the communities in which they operate, so it's important they reflect these communities in their leadership.

"We frequently see '& Sons' incorporated into the name of family firms. There are some '& Daughters' out there, but they are few and far between."

Amalia Brightley-Gillott, managing director of Family Business Place, a consultancy that supports leaders of family firms, said: "For many women, the window for taking over the reins of the family firm often coincides with the time when they want to start a family. This can lead to them being overlooked. Instead of accommodating this within the succession plan, a brother or a male cousin is often primed for the role instead.

"More recently there has been a shift in the way we work and run businesses. Flexible hours, working on the go, working from home have all led to women being able to achieve their goals in business whilst also managing a family. The best business leaders know that, in order for the business to continue and succeed, everyone should have an equal opportunity based on merit, not gender."

Cynergy Bank plans to launch a £75 million fund next year aimed at female-led family firms.

Chernobyl drama wows the critics to win top TV award

Hannah Mays

The mini-series *Chernobyl* has been named best TV programme of the year in *Radio Times*'s Critics' Choice awards.

The drama, from Sky Atlantic, which covers the aftermath of the 1986 nuclear disaster and stars Jared Harris, Stellan Skarsgard and Emily Watson, was backed by a panel of writers and critics.

Tim Glanfield, editorial director of RadioTimes.com, said: "One of the most talked-about TV shows of the year, this mini-series is a gripping and at times hard-to-watch drama that brings alive the events and aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster." He described the show as "an outstanding piece of television".

Phoebe Waller-Bridge's comedy *Fleabag*, about a middle-class, sex-obsessed, grieving woman with a sharp wit, came second, followed by HBO's satirical comedy *Succession*.

The adaptation of *His Dark Materials*, Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy, was fourth, followed by the fifth series of Jed Mercurio's police corruption drama *Line of Duty*, which received mixed reviews.

TV & Radio, Times2, pages 8-9

News

KATIE LEE FOR THE TIMES

Helen, centre, who manages the group in Newcastle, with Yasmin and Janet

Chatting (and arguing) about books can start a new chapter

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

James Marriott Deputy Books Editor

In the back room of an unassuming office building on Gosforth High Street in Newcastle, literary reputations are broken and made. If you thought a book group called Reading Friends was going to let its authors off lightly, think again. "We don't just read a book," one member tells me, "we pull it apart." Gulp.

So who is this ruthless literary cabal? And is Martin Amis somehow involved? He's not yet. Maybe one day… Reading Friends is a charity which aims to "tackle loneliness using reading to start conversations and connect people socially", and is supported by *The Times* Christmas Appeal. From the chatter and hubbub around me it seems to be working.

This week's victim — sorry, author — is Nigel Slater. The members take turns to read passages of his autobiography, *Toast*. He'll be relieved to hear his book went down well. Though that doesn't mean the discussion is controversy-free.

Yasmin is the group's contrarian, its Christopher Hitchens figure. Just as we all seem to be agreed that Slater's father should have done more for his son after the kid's mum died, Yasmin leaps in to stir things up.

Isn't the fact Slater senior left two marshmallows on his son's bedside table each night a sign he might not be all that bad? We all cope with grief differently, after all.

The discussion speeds up, papers are shuffled, Slater's book is consulted. The group's strength is that its members can disagree without falling out.

The bonds formed here are more than firm enough to withstand literary critical debate. The robust discussion is a mark of the friendships the group has formed. Yasmin tells me she joined after her children moved away from Newcastle. With her kids gone she "was left with a huge gap". Reading Friends is filling it.

Janet, 70, found herself in the opposite position. In 2018 she moved up to Newcastle from Walthamstow in London to be near her son. But leaving the capital meant leaving her friends. Reading Friends was the antidote to that loneliness. The friendships formed in the group aren't limited to weekly meetings. Not long ago, Yasmin had the other members round to her house to celebrate the breaking of the Ramadan fast.

Slater is soon forgotten as his book prompts the members into conversation about their own memories of their families and the food they ate together.

Eleanor reflects with frank amazement on her son's transformation from messy teenager to model husband. Nowadays, "you go to his front door and take your shoes off at the door… I used to have a porchway of dirty football boots!" Yasmin points out that "boys are very sneaky", they "pretend they can't do anything so their mothers help them out but as soon as they're left on their own they do it perfectly well".

There's a pause and the group look at me. I admit that Yasmin has a point and that I'm probably guilty myself. They tut, amused.

Every fortnight each member is expected to make a presentation. Helen, 74, who manages the group having got involved after the death of her husband has brought along a bag of chestnuts (this week's theme is food). She hands them around and memories of boiling them at Christmas or buying them from street vendors tumble forth.

Everyone agrees that preparing such homework gives the weeks in between the meetings a bit of "focus". Then there are the trips — recently to Newcastle's beautiful Georgian library the Lit and Phil and a local bookshop. But most of all it's the people.

Reading Friends provides company and solidarity at what could have been for many of its members, a very lonely time of life. "We've bonded really, really well as a group," they all agree. "It's the first reading group I've been to where I've made true friends," says Yasmin. She speaks for all of them.

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Time to make a mess of your garden

David Sanderson

Bee hotels, wildlife ponds and home-grown veg will be in vogue next year while manicured lawns will be out, the UK's leading gardening charity has predicted.

The Royal Horticultural Society said it expected an increase in the popularity of "messy" gardens as people became more aware of the environment and looked for ways to support nature.

Neatly clipped box hedges and lawns could be replaced with ponds and log piles as gardeners shun pesticides traditionally used to bring order to chaos.

"There is a rising tide of concern about the environment from catastrophic decline in insects to climate change and flooding," Guy Barter, the RHS chief horticulturalist, said. "In the garden at least we can have some control of it, which is a small but important step in the right direction."

The RHS has already said that more garden designers will incorporate planting schemes to benefit wildlife and the environment at its 2020 Chelsea Flower Show. Timber will be promoted as a building material with single-use materials such as cement and concrete sidelined.

Mr Barter said that interest in re-wilding had filtered through to domestic gardens. The television presenter Chris Packham and the farmers Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell are credited with stoking interest in large and small-scale re-wilding. *Wilding*, Ms Tree's account of her family's attempts to rewild their 1,400-hectare farm on the Knepp Castle Estate near Horsham, West Sussex, was one of the year's surprise literary successes.

BETSIE VAN DER MEER/GETTY IMAGES

Green fingers will be less interested in taming gardens this year than making them welcoming for wildlife, the RHS predicts

The RHS said gardeners would also be putting more thought into what their plants were grown in over the year ahead. Sustainable wood fibre and compost from green waste could increase in popularity. This could also involve the growing of more cover crops as well as the adoption of a "no dig" philosophy to limit damage to soil structure and wildlife. Children could even be encouraged to make mud pies after research indicated that the soil bacteria *Mycobacterium vaccae* has a beneficial effect on the immune system.

Other trends could be the revival of the houseplant, which will become bigger and more of a centrepiece of homes, and food growing. Chillies are set to remain the favourite grow-your-own but chickpeas, lentils and soya could become staples of vegetable patches replacing traditional choices, such as parsnips. Some favourites of the 1980s, nemesia and diascias, could be on the way back partly on account of their sweet scent which attracts bees and butterflies.

"I think some years ago wildlife gardening was still thought about as a separate thing," Mr Barter said. "Now we are all wildlife gardeners."

Temperatures reach 70-year high at 3am

A record-breaking temperature for Britain was set yesterday but it was so early that most people slept through it and you would have needed to be in northern Scotland to feel it.

A temperature of 16.8C (62.42F) was recorded in Cassley, northern Scotland, at 3am, a record for the time of year and well above the average night-time temperature of zero degrees for that area in late December.

Alex Burkill , a Met Office forecaster, said that it was the highest UK temperature recorded this late in the year. "It is pretty exceptional," he said. "We have never recorded a temperature that high this late in the month. What makes it more unusual was the temperature came at 3am."

The UK is yet to reach the record high for all of December, which stands at 18.3C on December 2, 1948.

Temperatures in Britain over the next 24 hours are likely to be about 10C higher than average for the time of year as the jet stream steers in warm air.

The warmth will be shortlived, however, with cooler conditions arriving later tomorrow. A northerly cold front will threaten chilly winds, fog, frost and even a touch of hill snow as 2020 gets under way.

"The jet stream is north of the UK, allowing warm, tropical, maritime air to come in from the southwest, originating from as far south as Africa," Mr Burkill said.

Full forecast, page 49

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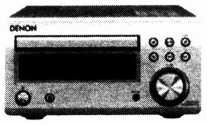

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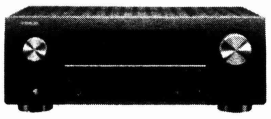

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TLS

Stop treating the old as second-class citizens
Edward Lucas
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Comment

This has been the decade of disconnection

Smartphones, social media and self-service, along with the erosion of civic spaces, have left us more isolated than ever

Clare Foges

@CLAREFOGES

The Roaring Twenties, the Warring Forties, the Swinging Sixties; what is the essence of the decade that ends tomorrow? When we think of decades gone — whether we lived in them or not — they have distinctive moods, colours: the sepia-tinted Seventies, the brash Eighties.

This retrospective coherence is a little ridiculous, of course; trends aren't guillotined at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, and stereotypes ignore how the masses live (most didn't spend 1969 prancing down Carnaby Street in a Mary Quant miniskirt). Yet defining our eras in this way helps us. It allows us to reminisce, take stock, resolve on new directions.

For some, the 2010s will always be coloured red, white and blue (or just blue) by Brexit. For me, though profoundly regrettable, this was not a decade definer. A deeper thread runs through the past ten years. The 2010s has been the decade of increasing disconnection; a time when we have grown farther apart from each other, from nature, from shared experiences. A time when convenience, technology and austerity have conspired to inch us away from some of the most satisfying parts of being human.

If we were packing a time capsule to capture the Great Disconnection it would contain only one item: a smartphone. At the beginning of the decade a third of us owned one. By 2017, ownership had reached 85 per cent — 95 per cent among those aged 18 to 24. If anyone were to visit us from previous eras, they would assume these ubiquitous rectangles were portals to our gods. In a way, they are: to icons, influencers, Instagram beauties. The dazzling goodies online can make real life seem pedestrian, achingly slow. And so the siren screen calls in bed, in the meeting, the lavatory, the cinema, the restaurant. In 2010 taking your phone out during a meal was the height of rudeness; now they sit next to the cutlery as standard. This year "texting lanes" were painted on to a road in Manchester, for those too absorbed to look up.

From the Arab Spring to the #MeToo movement, technology was hailed as a great force for connecting humanity — but although the ease of social media promised to bring us together, the numbers reporting loneliness rose. The trouble is that we are creatures made for face-to-face

> The siren screen calls in bed, in the meeting, the loo, the restaurant

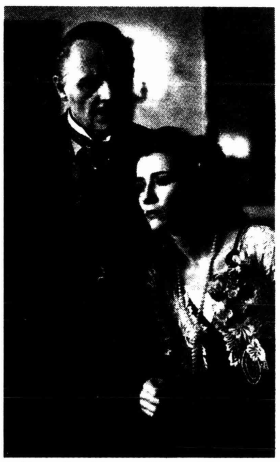
contact, not screen-to-screen contact. We are stuck with the same neurological kit as our hunter-gatherer ancestors, brains primed to socialise with our own small tribe, not thousands of strangers on Twitter.

When interacting the old-fashioned way we get hits of oxytocin, dopamine and the natural opiate beta-endorphins. The returns from online interaction don't compare. As Anna Machin, the evolutionary anthropologist, explains, "If you get loads of Instagram likes, you get a nice dopamine hit, but with things like beta-endorphin and oxytocin you don't get anything at all."

Social media doesn't nourish us like socialising. But face-to-face interactions were hammered by the conveniences served up to us in the 2010s. Instead of talking to the cashier, we now beep our goods through at the self-checkout machine. Instead of popping out for a bite, we call up Just Eat or Deliveroo. Instead of going to the pub, we drink at home. Instead of meeting dates in bars, people chat endlessly on dating apps before ghosting each other. Instead of hitting the high street, we open up our Amazon Prime account — 90 per cent of us use the site. Coffee shops may be thriving but half the clientele are plugged in to their laptops or podcasts.

At the same time as these cultural and technological trends were prompting a physical retreat from other human beings, the civic spaces we once shared shrank dramatically. Libraries, community centres, Sure Starts, youth clubs, leisure centres and playing fields closed by the week. Whether you blame austerity or inept financial management by local authorities, the result is a sad whittling away of places where people can meet and be together.

A century before the Great Disconnection, EM Forster wrote a rather prescient short story called *The Machine Stops*. In this futuristic fantasy the world is run by an omnipotent machine and everyone lives in a subterranean cell of their own, rarely meeting others face to face. Instead, each cell contains a blue "optic plate" through which they can communicate, over a global web. In one scene a son tells his mother, "I see something like you in this plate, but I do not see you. I hear something like you through this telephone, but I do not hear you."



Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson connected in the film of Howards End

Though we are clearly not approaching a dystopia like this, in the son's yearning for authentic connection there is a warning to us about what we are missing.

Now, at the beginning of a fresh new decade, many of us might resolve to reconnect with the real world; to give more of our undiluted attention to those around us; to invest in the places and experiences we share. Our new government can resolve to do its bit to regenerate our common spaces: using the tax and planning systems where possible to bolster pubs, independent shops, post offices and cafés. The Tory manifesto promises a "new deal for towns"; make this a serious agenda to revitalise hollowed-out town centres. After the long years of acrimony over cuts, there should be a fresh financial settlement for local authorities, the money earmarked for supporting the places communities are made: playgrounds, libraries, community centres.

Ultimately, though, a resolution to reconnect face-to-face must be made by ourselves. Already there are signs that people are turning against the screens that have held us captive for years. While a decade ago the latest iPhone was a luxury, now luxury is

> Libraries, community centres and youth clubs closed by the week

freedom from the blessed things; posh hotels offer "digital detox" weekends, some private schools boast of screen-free learning, increasing numbers of eateries insist on no phones. It has become more common to receive out-of-office emails that make clear the account will not be checked as the recipient is spending time with their family, a declaration that would have earned scorn just a few years ago.

The country would be a better, happier place if more of us followed this lead and looked up from our screens. As Forster instructs in *Howards End*: "Only connect!" These two words form a fitting resolution for Britain in 2020. After years of acrimony, battling and bickering, now is the time to come out from behind our technology, look each other in the face and truly connect.

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Comment

Stop treating the old as second-class citizens

Older consumers deserve homes and gadgets that cater for their needs, not those of teenagers

Edward Lucas

@EDWARDLUCAS

I offer a new year's resolution for anyone who provides a product or service to old people. Before designing anything, try it yourself. But not with your youthful or prime-of-life limbs, senses and reflexes. Wear thick, uncomfortable (preferably painful) gloves to mimic the effect of weak, arthritic wrists and fingers. Don a pair of cracked sunglasses: a taste of life with elderly eyesight. Put in earplugs and play annoying background noise, loudly. Tie your laces together and put stones in your shoes to make standing and walking difficult. Do everything with an uncomfortably full bladder, with bad jetlag. That, roughly, is how it feels to be old.

Not every elderly person is frail or muddled. But life does get harder as you age. A week watching my 90-year-old parents battle the modern world makes me wonder if a malevolent mastermind has created a special version of *The Hunger Games* for old people.

Amid the mince pies, sprouts and charades, the visiting technical support team swings into action. We reset passwords, tweak the wifi frequency, update apps and software, install missing drivers, change printer cartridges, restore deleted files and match chargers to devices. We bring dormant mobile phones to life, skirmishing with expired credit and quiescent Sim cards. We wield tiny screwdrivers, click through menus and parse instruction manuals.

Amid the blizzard of chores, I fume. Not because I begrudge the time but because the products and services aimed at people like me (and younger) are designed with so little thought to people of my parents' generation. Why is it so difficult to grasp that eyesight, hearing, muscle tone, stamina and most of all memory decline as people age? It takes longer to understand new things and it becomes harder to remember them. Don't the people who run these companies have parents themselves?

A particular bête noire this Christmas was a 90th birthday present I gave my mother in May. She wanted a portable digital radio.

> Amid the mince pies, the technical support team swings into action

I chose the Azatom Woodlands, nice-looking and British-made. Its capabilities are amazing — it works as a Bluetooth speaker for my phone, and it would play sounds from a memory card, were anyone to want that. But the effort that went into its design foundered on usability. The instruction manual is terse, vague and ill written. The device is far too modern to have boringly obvious knobs for tuning and volume. Instead you are supposed to use a flimsy, easy-to-lose remote control. My father has written books on physics and philosophy. My mother mastered iPad email in her eighties. My brother runs tech companies. None of us can make this machine switch stations simply. Its minimalist elegance makes it a super-cool paperweight.

In 2008 the government asked Joan Bakewell to give a voice to the elderly. Now 86 (and retired from that role) she fumes at the arrogance and carelessness of those who fail to cater to this large and growing slice of the population. Her chief bugbear is hard plastic packaging — the kind that comes around electrical items. It does not pull open (presumably to discourage theft). It does yield to systematic attack with scissors, but for elderly arthritic hands, getting the right mixture of squeeze and twist is hard.

Another is that pharmacy labels are printed in potentially lethal small grey letters, readable only with a dextrous combination of magnifying glass and torch. We strive to stop children eating pills by accident. Ensuring that elderly patients take them promptly and properly matters too.

My aunt moved into a new block of flats supposedly purpose-built for elderly residents. Nobody at Richmond Villages seems to have thought that a full-sized dishwasher and oven was a poor use of space. The fridge was huge and the freezer tiny: the other way round would have been far more practical. The doors fitted flush with the carpet: no room for treasured rugs. The capacious walk-in shower would have suited an amorous couple, my aunt noted, when some storage, a grab rail and room for a stool would have been a lot handier.

One solution would be prizes. Which restaurants will invest in acoustic baffles and ditch the background music, perhaps also providing half-size portions for senior appetites? The deep-pocketed over-sixties will flock there. Supermarkets that provide loos will have our loyalty too. As your bladder shrinks and your valves weaken, easy access to a lavatory is the difference between anxiety and humiliation or comfort and joy.

Along with the bouquets, I would award brickbats, especially to helplines that refuse to allow me to make phone calls on behalf of my elderly relatives. I have a "lasting power of attorney", giving me legal authority to represent them on everything from daily trivia to switching off life support. But this has no digital equivalent. It sits uselessly in a folder while I rage down the phone at an NHS jobsworth who tells me that the local surgery does not accept emails or scanned documents and I will have to bring the original tomorrow.

With my cybersecurity hat on, this problem seems easily solvable: software on a phone or computer could issue a one-off cryptographic token, signed by me and instantly checkable by the recipient, allowing them to deal with me as the patient's representative for the authorised purpose (such as renewing a prescription, making an appointment or checking test results). But whoever designs it, please note: run it past a panel of pensioners first.

Emma Duncan Notebook

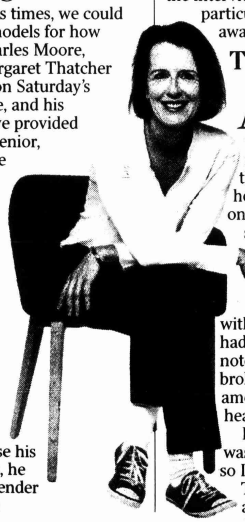
Every city needs mud as much as museums

Off to Hampstead Heath for a seasonal stomp with a friend who lives near by. The dog wallows in mud and we enjoy the heath's astonishing bounty: 320 acres, 26 ponds (three of which you can swim in) and all the birds you would expect to see, as well as occasional glimpses of rarities such as grebe and kingfisher. There are always small adventures to be had here, of a sort that don't happen if you live life through a screen: last time a lost dog attached himself to us and had to be reunited with his owner; the previous time a runner injured her knee and had to be got to hospital. I don't know any capital that has anything comparable so close to its centre.

My friend tells me that the City of London Corporation, which manages the heath, needs to save £30 million in the next financial year which is not surprising given the sums it is spending on projects like the new Museum of London at Smithfield and a new concert hall at the Barbican. But the corporation's endowment is worth £2.6 billion and the heath costs about £10 million a year to run. I hope the corporation will remember that a city needs mud as well as museums.

How to disagree

In these fractious times, we could do with some models for how to disagree. Charles Moore, biographer of Margaret Thatcher and guest editor on Saturday's *Today* programme, and his nephew Felix, have provided a couple. Moore senior, who chose a range of subjects — climate change, transgenderism, Iran, foxhunting — designed to make the programme as controversial (ie interesting) as possible, has previously compared sex-change surgery to female genital mutilation. But rather than impose his views on listeners, he invited his transgender nephew on to the programme. Moore junior, who disagrees strongly with his uncle, gave a measured, moving interview that revealed how the world looked from the point of view of an autistic girl who knew that she was a boy. I disagree with Moore senior about pretty much everything. But anybody who listened to the programme, and the interview with his nephew in particular, will have come away a little bit richer.



Tips and tiffs

A young friend who was working in a nearby pub before he went to university has resumed his job behind the bar for the Christmas holidays. He came home on Christmas Eve looking shaken. There had been a fight — not between customers but between bar staff. At issue was a glass with some tips in it. Blows had been exchanged, a £10 note torn and the glass broken. The tips, he said, amounted to about £4 per head for the staff.

In the summer the pub was a happy place to work, so I asked what had changed. The Portuguese, Spanish and Italians who had worked there before, he said, were "really nice" but had been replaced by locals, who are "lazy and greedy". My heart sank a little.

Peace in 4/4 time

The best antidote to gloom this season is a video of a rather motley-looking choir singing a piece entitled *The Good Friday Agreement*, and subtitled *Peace in 4/4 Time*. Clare Salters, a Northern Ireland Office civil servant who was involved in the Good Friday agreement talks, set the "Declaration of Support", with which the agreement opens, to music. Some of the lyrics are not exactly rollicking: "It is accepted that all of the institutional and constitutional arrangements — an Assembly in Northern Ireland, a North/South ministerial council, implementation bodies, a British-Irish Council and a British-Irish intergovernmental conference". But the spirit of optimism and humour with which it was written and sung is unbeatable.

Straw poll

Just as one daughter has imposed a plastic-straw ban on the household, the other tells me that banning plastic straws is unethical because disabled people, who actually need straws, prefer plastic to cardboard. Sometimes modern morality is baffling. I need a drink.

THUNDERER

Extraditing Anne Sacoolas exposes US-UK tensions

David Bermingham

The decision of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to charge Anne Sacoolas with causing the death of Harry Dunn by dangerous driving, and to commence proceedings to extradite her from the US, has the potential for far-reaching consequences for the government in 2020. It will shine a light once more on our controversial extradition treaty with America, which was signed in haste by the Blair government in 2003 as a part of the war on terror and has caused untold problems for British citizens ever since.

To date, all of the angst has been caused by requests from the US for the extradition of British citizens, many of whom have never set foot in the US, but who can be accused of breaking American laws because the US adopts an aggressive extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Now, perhaps for the first time, the boot is on the other foot and we already have a foretaste of the reaction of the American authorities, who have described the developments as variously "unhelpful" and "an egregious abuse".

Much of the criticism of the treaty was for its perceived lack of reciprocity. A person in the US whose extradition is sought by the UK has the right to a hearing in a US court, where evidence can be put before a judge who will decide whether there is "probable cause" that the offence alleged has been committed. For persons in the UK sought by the US, there is no such hearing, leading to the criticism that America enjoys pretty much extradition on demand.

Another major criticism, largely untested to date, is that the US is very reticent to extradite its own citizens. America does not recognise the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court specifically because it refuses to countenance the possibility of US servicemen being tried abroad for war crimes.

The twist in the Anne Sacoolas tale, however, is in the dramatis personae. As my constituency MP when I faced extradition to the US in 2006 as one of the NatWest Three, Boris Johnson was a vocal critic of the treaty. Dominic Raab, now foreign secretary, was also active in trying to secure a change to the law. Andrea Leadsom, the MP for the Dunn family, watched as two of her constituents were carted off in chains to the US in 2014.

The primary reason that the treaty remains unaltered is because of pressure from the US embassy in London, which was delighted with the very favourable arrangements. Its spokeswoman back in the early days, who argued strongly that there was no imbalance in the arrangements, was Amy Jeffress, now the lawyer for Anne Sacoolas, who has stated that she believes the extradition request to be "disproportionate". The irony of this will not be lost on British citizens facing extradition in 2020.

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Blind faith in tech robs us of our humanity

Post Office bosses put their trust in machines rather than loyal staff in a chilling illustration of callous bureaucracy

Libby Purves

@LIB_THINKS

The decade ends not only with a resolution (perhaps) to the venom and boredom of Brexit, but with the conclusion of a longer folly and scandal. More than 550 sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses have won a High Court victory over the Post Office after being accused of theft, fraud and false accounting. Some were prosecuted, ruined, a few even jailed. Noel Thomas of Anglesey, after a life working for the Post Office, spent his 60th birthday inside. Lee Castleton was bankrupted. One woman prosecuted for theft and false accounting was only spared prison when villagers, trusting her, crowdfunded her "debt" of £36,000.

The problem was actually, it seems, mainly due to a new IT system — Horizon — designed by Fujitsu, installed and enforced on sub-postmasters 19 years ago. It showed discrepancies in its first years: 15 years ago Alan Bates of Craig-y-Don in north Wales (a lead claimant) wrote to *Computer Weekly* with concerns about the system and the damaging accusations. "The core of our problem stems from our refusal to blindly accept liability for figures derived from the system without having full access to the system to check the data we have entered."

The number of accused, sacked, fined and destroyed sub-postmasters grew; perhaps in the first years the shame and shock was so great that many did not fight as early as Bates. The Post Office insisted the software was perfect and "an extremely robust system". Victims and journalists were slapped down hard and it was five more years before the untangling of this scandal began.

Now the court has damned the management of the Post Office for what Mr Justice Fraser has finally called "oppressive behaviour… institutional obstinacy or refusal to consider any possible alternatives to their view [of the Horizon system] which was maintained regardless of the weight of factual evidence to the contrary". He compared it to stubborn flat-earthism and damned them for using their expensive resources for "attack and disparagement of the claimants individually and collectively".

Fujitsu got hammered too, for "unsatisfactory evidence" and concerns about veracity. The "business improvement director" of the Post Office was accused by the judge of not being frank and trying to "obfuscate… and mislead".

It will cost the Post Office nearly £58 million in damages, which is in fact pretty low, and some of the accused may bring further cases for malicious prosecution. The chairman, Tim Parker, has at last thrown up his hands and admitted they got things wrong. Mr Bates as lead claimant gracefully accepts his desire to "learn lessons" and praises the new chief executive, Nick Read.

I relate this again because it must not be forgotten. The human cost

> The Post Office was willing to believe staff were cheating scum

was immense: 19 years is a long time in anyone's life. We need to learn lessons. First about the arrogance of Big IT: multinational companies sell huge systems for huge sums, claiming perfection where (as the *Computer Weekly* analysis makes clear) it is sometimes impossible: bugs, innocent user error, undetected glitches that repeat themselves, hardware problems, power surges.

"It was never possible that Horizon was so perfect as to be correct every single time in the many millions of transactions it recorded — especially when hundreds of its users were small business owners with little IT knowledge and, in many cases, insufficient training or support". This weekend, after all, the Cabinet Office committed a huge security breach.

Second, there's the familiar hubris of institutional behaviour: a powerful body's refusal to look steadily at itself, the reluctance of apparatchiks in boardrooms and offices to ask awkward, subversive questions. During those long stubborn years the Post Office could have noticed other IT disasters: £10 billion wasted on a useless NHS system, HMRC's loss of confidential computer discs, the London Stock Exchange shut down twice in 2009 by a bug in the system, problems at RBS and the Border Agency. Did none of this make them stop and think?

Third, worst of all, was the willingness of Post Office leaders to presume that suddenly 10 per cent of its long-term associates were cheating scum. Rather than permit themselves to wonder about Fujitsu's expensive new system, they blithely assumed a sudden epidemic of crime: that hundreds of sub-postmasters and postmistresses, running vital counters alongside their fragile little businesses in grateful communities, were villains. On the take.

It is a corporate mindset familiar to others, not least freelancers dealing with HMRC. It stinks. Of course fraud and theft must be detected and punished (though as a recent *Times* investigation revealed, there isn't nearly enough rigour towards secretive online and phone scammers). But investigation has to begin by understanding that most ordinary people, especially in jobs close to their community, are not criminals but carefully anxious, nervous of an official envelope or a uniform at the door.

I have hated watching this story, because I am sentimental about the Post Office. I watch *Night Mail* repeatedly and in the 1970s enjoyed an absurd stunt where we local radio journalists were "posted' from coast to coast, riding on the old TPO (Travelling Post Office) trains. We marvelled at the devotion and pride of employees, everywhere from Mount Pleasant and London's antique underground mail rail to our destination at Sheringham, home of the Singing Postman.

Sentimental, yes: but those were real people, and though times have moved on to a coarser and more digital age, I doubt that old spirit is dead. It hurts that the 21st-century Post Office management preferred to trust an electronic novelty. I hope their shame is real.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Look North

Sir, Paying attention to the needs of the regions instead of simply disbursing most government cash to London and the southeast of England is in no way a new policy ("Treasury to rip up rules in northern cash boost", Dec 26). Until 2010 both Tory and Labour governments had regional offices staffed by civil servants who directed various grants to their areas based on need. This was supported by money from the European Regional Development Fund, whose purpose was to even out the prosperity and the opportunities for economic growth across the regions of Europe. South Yorkshire, after the collapse of coal mining and the steel industry, was seen as in need of cash and received millions of euros. The face of Sheffield was changed for the better as a result.

In the not so distant past, Tory ministers such as Michael Heseltine showed interest in the regions and supported policies to encourage regeneration. All we have had in recent years has been George Osborne's Northern Powerhouse, which was little more than a vacuous slogan.

The closure of regional offices has not helped London-based civil servants understand or appreciate what is needed in the rest of the UK. Let's hope that the prime minister's recent enthusiasm for the north has more impact than the Garden Bridge.

Cathy Dean
Sheffield

Open source

Sir, One does not have to wait for a cabinet leak to obtain the addresses of celebrities or private citizens ("Lives 'at risk' after honours list fiasco", thetimes.co.uk, Dec 29). Daily life is impracticable without disclosure of who and where you are. Everyone who has a driving, TV or gun licence, has a bank account, is member of a club or professional body etc, is listed and accessible to a competent investigator.

To believe that a foreign power or a terrorist hit squad would rely on an accidental leak to locate a target is absurd. Only the homeless can remain incognito. Many lists, including a version of the electoral roll, are for sale. To get this letter published in *The Times* requires disclosure of my address and telephone number.

Victor Ross
Former member of the Home Office Data Protection Tribunal,
London W9

Corrections and clarifications

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Changing the age of criminal responsibility

Sir, The letter from Dr Vizard and others (Dec 27) arguing for an increase in the age of criminal responsibility compellingly makes the case that a ten-year-old's mental capacities "are not comparable to an older adolescent or adult". I would also add that criminalising these youngsters, while they are still developing their identities and self-esteem, damages their prospects of growing up to lead a law-abiding life. If society brands them as criminals that is how they will come to identify themselves.

Whatever their wrongdoing, the substantive disposal of these cases will not be markedly different whether they are convicted under the criminal justice system or subjected to the corrective welfare process. If they need to be detained securely, they will be. The Bulger case, tragic and appalling as it was, continues to cast its long shadow over this issue.

It is time that a more enlightened approach was adopted. I suggest that the question be considered by the proposed new Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood
Retired Justice of the Supreme Court

Sir, I agree that the brain is far from mature aged ten, 12 or even 25, but that does not mean that the ten-year-old child is not aware of actions that are right and wrong. The problem is more in the rather rigid manner in which our legal system pursues the investigation and prosecution of the offence, applying the same processes to every age of defendant. Raising the age of responsibility simply gives the child licence to believe that he can carry on doing the same thing that he knows is wrong for another couple of years.

Hedley Piper
Dartmouth, Devon

Sir, As a retired criminal lawyer, I find it interesting that the debate about the injustice surrounding the age of criminal responsibility in our jurisdiction is being rekindled for the umpteenth time since I started my career in the late 1960s.

I remember training for the implementation of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, section 4 of which provided that a person could not be charged with a criminal offence, except homicide, by reason of anything done or omitted while he was a child (meaning under 14 years of age). Instead of prosecuting children aged 10-13 years for criminal offences, the act allowed the police to commence care proceedings in the juvenile courts and made the commission of a criminal offence a ground for bringing such proceedings, which were civil in nature and could lead to the court making a supervision order or, if necessary, a care order.

That provision was never implemented and is rarely referred to in these debates. It was a flawed provision because it excluded homicide, but it went a long way to address the injustice that persists to this day.

Morris Cooper
Ashby de la Zouch, Leics

Sir, The age in the UK is still shamefully far too low, not only by EU standards but also by those of much of the world. Even in countries such as Russia, China, North Korea and the Democratic Republic of Congo, a child is not regarded as capable of a criminal act until he or she is 14 years old.

Dr Audrey Wells
London NW6

Royal Family Engagements in 2019

	A	B	C	D	E
The Queen	47	28	220	295	-
Prince of Wales	**145**	**69**	**159**	**373**	**148**
Duchess of Cornwall	92	40	13	145	79
Duke of Cambridge	**66**	**18**	**82**	**166**	**54**
Duchess of Cambridge	59	18	33	110	16
Duke of Sussex	**58**	**9**	**41**	**108**	**93**
Duchess of Sussex	25	3	11	39	44
Duke of York	**87**	**49**	**54**	**190**	**84**
Earl of Wessex	79	78	77	234	74
Countess of Wessex	**74**	**38**	**45**	**157**	**79**
Princess Royal	224	117	112	453	53
Duke of Gloucester	**149**	**32**	**37**	**218**	**8**
Duchess of Gloucester	45	26	11	82	2
Duke of Kent	**125**	**34**	**20**	**179**	**24**
Princess Alexandra	34	15	11	60	-

A Official visits, opening ceremonies, sports, concerts and charity events.

B Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets.

C Other engagements, including investitures, meetings attended and audiences given.

D Total number of engagements in UK.

E Total number of engagements on official overseas tours.

Royal engagements

Sir, I have carried out a survey of the official engagements undertaken by the royal family during 2019 as reported in the Court Circular.

The Duke of Edinburgh retired from carrying out royal engagements in July 2017 and during 2019 gave three audiences and attended one lunch as reported in the Court Circular.

The Duke of York ceased public duties from November 20 this year following his "ill-judged association with Jeffrey Epstein".

I should again emphasise that the above table of figures should not be converted into a "league table" of individual royal performance. All engagements differ as to time and content and there is also the time taken in preparation, whether it be a visit, investiture or speech.

Except for Christmas Day and Easter Day, the Queen never has a day off from the official red boxes which pursue her everywhere.

Tim O'Donovan
Datchet, Berks

In sickness

Sir, I came out of the hospital after my father had died in 2012 to see a traffic warden affixing a second parking ticket to his car ("Free parking means less money for care, hospital chiefs warn", Dec 28).

Words can't really describe the thoughts that go through you, and no doubt thousands of other people who have suffered similar indignities. The realisation that there is a sickness in a country that practises this profiteering on misery is high among them. Free parking for people needing hospital services is long overdue.

Benjamin Ruth
Lancaster

Sir, Blue badge holders are already entitled to free parking. The issue is finding a vacant blue badge space. Without the extra space afforded by the blue badge bay, I find it impossible to fully open the car door to use my wheelchair.

Anthony Stone
London SW19

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited.

EDUCATION AND THE BIRTH RATE

FROM THE TIMES DECEMBER 30, 1919

The falling birth-rate, now universal in civilized countries, is the subject of anxious debate in the United States of America. The late President Roosevelt preached the large family and the homely life, translating the doctrine of Zola into New England Puritanism. His influence has given a characteristic tone to the American discussion. Two years ago, Mr Dublin, a statistician at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, appended to an exposition of the fall in the birth-rate his view of its significance. He arraigned women and their education as the cause. He would exclude women from the avocations of men and throw them back to the duties assigned them by Nature.

Professor Ellen Hayes, in a paper published last week in *Science*, the organ of the American Association, meets the attack upon educated women with scorn. These poor men, the learned lady says, do not see that we are in the midst of a "revolution unparalleled in the history of the human race." Women have won economic freedom and acquired the right to choose. The conviction that it is woman's lot to bear children in meekness and resignation, is joining its "companion superstitions, special creation and the fall of man". Each woman is now deciding for herself, whether she will marry or not, and if she does marry, has the deciding vote as to the number of children.

If we must have more children, in place of trying to increase the number of those born we might try to increase the number that live. In the United States 300,000 children die at under twelve months every year, and conditions of infant life are not conspicuously better in Europe. The new freedom of women, even if it be a cause of the falling birth-rate, is only one of many causes. Shortage of housing, postponement of the marriage age, the desire to better provide for children, wise laws limiting their employment, and many other phenomena contribute to the result. It is futile to assign blame only to the education of women. The movement for their economic and social freedom, almost irresistible before the war, washed away the will to resist when men saw how women shared the danger and monotonous toil of five tragic years. Our new civilization must accept the new position of women.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Swindon no slouch

Sir, Your article "Cash is no longer king in a world of virtual money" (Dec 28) implies surprise that "the first truly electronic payments system was introduced in Swindon".

Swindon was at the forefront of many railway technologies (Brunel), as well as the video disc, invented there by Garrard Engineering and Manufacturing Company in 1976. At its most innovative and forward thinking, though, the introduction of a "cradle to grave" health scheme for workers at the Great Western Railway works there in 1871 goes unsung as the model for Aneurin Bevan's NHS in 1948.

Roger Foord
Chorleywood, Herts

Black Sea Brits

Sir, As some anecdotal evidence to your piece on Saxons fleeing to the Black Sea ("Conquered exiles built little England by the Black Sea," Dec 27), I had my DNA analysed a few years ago. I have a long line of ancestors through the male line whose lives in England are well documented back to the 13th century.

Nevertheless, the DNA through the male line showed 33 per cent of men with similar DNA in 1500 lived in Georgia and 32 per cent in eastern Turkey. To my astonishment, only 3 per cent were in England. Your historian now has a further small piece of evidence.

Giles Clarke
Wrington, Somerset

Don't be a Scrooge

Sir, I couldn't disagree more with Bryan Owen (letter, Dec 27). The BBC's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* was first class, giving a sinister and dark representation of Dickens's original novella.

It was a superb, relevant and, at times, uncomfortable scrutiny of the human condition. The BBC has on many occasions given us productions to show "how good these stories actually are" and therefore should not be taken to task when reimagining a classic.

Iain Kilpatrick
West Ewell, Surrey

Showbiz intro

Sir, Your correspondent Murray Hedgcock correctly writes of the importance of the Princess Theatre shows by Kern, Bolton and Wodehouse in the development of the American musical (letter, Dec 28).

The shows may be forgotten now, but their influence lives on through the work of a young teenager who saw them over and over again and who would later write that they "pointed the way I wanted to be led." The name of that teenager was Richard Rodgers.

Barry Kester
Pinner, Middx

Oh so quiet

Sir, Unlike Mr Doolan (letter, Dec 28), I think it much better when people don't know what time the movie starts. The "incessant pounding" of trailers and adverts happily masks 20 minutes of masticating, slurping and rustling of cinema snacks, after which packets are empty, viewers replete and we can all watch the film in peace.

Jane Park-Weir
Ellisfield, Hants

Daily Universal Register

UK: Hogmanay celebrations begin with a torchlit procession through Edinburgh.

Nature notes

Here and there in the woods now a gruff and rather gloomy double note — a repeated "oh-oo" — can sometimes be heard. This is a stock dove beginning to sing again. When Tennyson wrote of the "moan of doves in immemorial elms" he may have been thinking of stock doves. These birds are not unlike woodpigeons, but stock doves do not have a white wing bar and are slightly darker and smaller. They are quick to fly away when approached and are most often seen as a view of bluish wings, edged with black, going hurriedly away through the branches. They gather in small flocks to feed in the middle of fields, where you can see their noticeably round head and the green sheen on their neck as they peck about. The "stock" in their name comes from a word often used by foresters for a tree trunk — it is within holes in trunks that they make their nests. DERWENT MAY

Birthdays today

Mike Pompeo, *pictured*, US secretary of state, director of the US Central Intelligence Agency (2017-18), 56; **Natasha Baker**, equestrian, five-time Paralympic gold medallist (2012, 2016), 30; **Prof Stephen Belcher**, chief scientist, Met Office, 55; **Colonel Edward Bolitho**, lord-lieutenant of Cornwall, 64; **Prof Sir Roy Calne**, transplant surgeon, 89; **Douglas Coupland**, novelist, *Generation X* (1991), and artist, 58; **Geraint Talfan Davies**, chairman, Welsh National Opera (2000-03, 2006-16), 76; **Dame Jacqueline Foster**, Conservative MEP for the North West (1999-2004, 2009-19), 72; **Ellie Goulding**, singer-songwriter, *Love Me Like You Do* (2015), 33; **Lord (Archie) Hamilton of Epsom**, parliamentary private secretary to Margaret Thatcher (1987-88), chairman, 1922 Committee (1997-2001), 78; **LeBron James**, US basketball player, two-time Olympic gold medallist (2008, 2012), 35; **Jay Kay**, singer, Jamiroquai, *Space Cowboy* (1994), 50; **Stephen Kelly**, chief executive, Sage Group (2014-18), 58; **Jeff Lynne**, singer-songwriter, ELO, 72; **Timothy Mo**, author, *Pure* (2012), 69; **Michael Nesmith**, musician, the Monkees, *I'm a Believer* (1966), 77; **Sir Antonio Pappano**, pianist, conductor and music director, Royal Opera House, 60; **Joe Root**, cricketer, England Test team captain, 29; **John Seymour**, Duke of Somerset, 67; **Caroline Slocock**, director, Civil Exchange, 63; **Nick Skelton**, showjumper, Olympic gold medallist (2012, 2016), 62; **Patti Smith**, singer-songwriter, *Horses* (1975), 73; **Kevin Systrom**, co-founder (2010) and former chief executive, Instagram, 36; **Tracey Ullman**, comedian, *The Tracey Ullman Show* (1987-90), and actress, *Into the Woods* (2014), 60; **Graham Vick**, founder (1987) and artistic director, Birmingham Opera, 66; **Sophie Ward**, actress, *Young Sherlock Holmes* (1985), 55; **Tiger Woods**, golfer, winner of 15 major championships, 44.

On this day

In **1916** a group of Russian noblemen led by Prince Yusupov murdered Rasputin.

The last word

"Light breaks where no sun shines;
Where no sea runs, the waters of the heart
Push in their tides."
Dylan Thomas, Welsh poet and playwright, *Light Breaks Where No Sun Shines* (1934).

Teaching Timidity

A generous bequest to establish scholarships for poor white boys at leading public schools has been spurned for no good reason. The decision will cement disadvantage

Racial discrimination is abhorrent. It treats the morally irrelevant characteristic of ethnicity as a criterion for the distribution of rewards. No civilised person would disagree that it needs to be outlawed in public life. Unfortunately, this vital principle is being misapplied, ostensibly for fear of running foul of the law.

Two leading public schools, Dulwich College, in south London, and Winchester College, in Hampshire, have rejected a proposal to establish scholarships for poor white boys. Their decision in no respect advances the cause of anti-racism. It merely demonstrates how, where issues of race are concerned, institutional fastidiousness can take precedence over common sense. The losers are children who are already contending with social disadvantage.

The proposal was made by Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites, an eminent scientist and former principal of Westfield College, part of the University of London. Coming from a family of modest means, Sir Bryan benefited from scholarships to attend both schools. He attended Dulwich as a day boy until the outbreak of the Second World War and was then sent to Winchester. During his formidable career as an academic and educator, he taught at Winchester and founded the School Mathematics Project, which was extended to 80 per cent of school pupils by the 1970s.

Mindful of his good fortune in receiving scholarships in order to fulfil his intellectual potential, Sir Bryan wanted to provide opportunities to other bright boys of a similar background to his own. He hence planned to bequeath £400,000 to Dulwich and £800,000 to Winchester for scholarships for poor white boys. The schools, having apparently consulted with experts in the law and the charity sector, have declined his offer.

This is a shortsighted decision that is made worse by the sententiousness of the schools' justification for their decision. A spokesman for Winchester protested that "the school does not see how discrimination on grounds of a boy's colour could ever be compatible with its values". Dulwich, meanwhile, said: "Bursaries are an engine of social mobility and they should be available to all who pass our entrance examinations, irrespective of their background."

Of course scholarships are a vehicle for social mobility. That is the point of them. And it is a demonstrable fact that poor white children are underperforming other ethnic groups in academic attainment. A report in 2014 by the House of Commons education committee noted that poor white British children left school with worse qualifications than those of equally poor children in any other main ethnic group. They also did less homework and missed more school lessons.

The data since the report testifies to the enduring nature of that disparity among ethnic groups. Disadvantaged Chinese pupils score well above the national average for attainment by all pupils at age 16, and disadvantaged pupils of Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and black African backgrounds do significantly better than the average of all poorer pupils. Pupils from white working-class homes achieve the lowest GCSE scores of any main ethnic group, with only around a quarter of boys (and a third of girls) achieving five good grades.

If the data is discouraging, the ability of good schools to stretch talented pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds is also well documented. The notion that Sir Bryan's generosity might somehow entrench generations of racial inequality is preposterous. He is plainly seeking the exact opposite, targeting help on those who are most in need of it. Public schools have a long tradition of establishing scholarships that are far less worthy yet serve their aims, such as sporting excellence. A public culture that disdains a humanitarian bequest for purely pusillanimous reasons is in a poor state.

Fog of Finance

Investment banks are rewarding corporate customers in preference to small investors

In a market economy, scarce resources are allocated to companies that can make most productive use of them. That at least is the theory, and it is true that the decisions of investors, expressed in constantly shifting prices for company shares, are a more efficient way of allocating capital than the decisions of government bureaucracies. Yet the financial system falls well short of a truly competitive market.

Research by *The Times* reveals that investment banks are treating their corporate clients more favourably than other companies in their equity analysis. Of 16 banks included in our analysis, ranging from big institutions to smaller specialists, all but one show a bias towards companies with which they already have a commercial relationship. Essentially, if a bank has a quoted company as a client, it is vanishingly unlikely that its analysts will advise fund managers not to buy the shares. In the typical investment analyst ratings of buy, hold or sell, these companies' shares will always be rated a buy, whatever the price and whatever the conditions of the overall stock market.

The terminology of the City may seem remote from the real economy. In reality, the implications are very important for the tens of millions of people who have savings in occupational pension schemes and other funds. Investment banks typically distinguish between the "sell side" of the industry, which involves activities such as raising capital for companies and providing financial advice, and the "buy side", which invests funds on behalf of the public.

Our findings demonstrate a conflict of interest that can only damage faith in the ability of big financial institutions to serve their ultimate customers. They depend on these investment decisions for their retirement incomes and other life goals. If investment banks are recommending particular shares to fund managers for reasons other than a genuine judgment that they are undervalued by the market, then it is small savers who will ultimately pay the price.

The financial industry has known of this problem for a long time. In the dotcom bubble of the late 1990s and early 2000s, the stocks of technology companies rose rapidly in price even though the companies did not even have any earnings. One famous American investment analyst, Henry Blodget, was revealed after the bubble burst to have made highly disparaging and scatological comments, in private emails, about stocks that he had actually recommended to investors.

There have been valiant attempts at reform of the system in recent times. New European rules prohibit banks from bundling up their equity research with other products, and require that fund managers pay for it directly. In principle, this is supposed to ensure that the research is not contaminated by the commercial needs of other parts of an investment bank's business. Yet our findings suggest that the problem is widespread.

Moreover, a consequence of the rules is that fund managers are less keen to buy equity research, which they do not feel adds much value. The financial system does require good analysis, to provide companies with the scrutiny that pushes them to improve performance. Again and again, as the scandals this year over the underperforming Woodford equity funds demonstrate, not enough scrutiny is going on to ensure that investors can have confidence in the financial system.

Pure Folly

An eccentric treasure of 19th-century architecture is being saved for the nation

To live in an ivory tower is a modern cliché, but this 19th-century metaphor had a real-life inspiration. William Beckford, an eccentric of immense wealth drawn from the sugar industry, was so fascinated by towers that he built one on Lansdown Hill near Bath. This 120ft tower, completed in 1827, was built on neoclassical lines and with a large room at the top to serve as a study. Though monumentally impractical it still stands, its appearance suggestive of an Italianate villa. Fortunately this noble edifice, which was in danger of collapsing, is now to be restored.

The cost will be met by a grant of £390,000 to Bath Preservation Trust, which maintains the tower, from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. When the tower is made secure a further grant of £2.5 million will enable what was once Beckford's private dominion to become a museum housing artefacts from his collections of art and furniture.

It is good news that a building recently placed on the Heritage at Risk Register, published by Historic England, will be saved. Restoring Beckford's Tower is just the type of project, sustaining the nation's cultural riches, that lottery funds were intended for. It is no criticism of the scheme that the tower is unique in being the only one of Beckford's grand architectural visions to remain in existence.

Beckford is best remembered for commissioning a gothic mansion called Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire. The long-suffering architect, James Wyatt, built a vast palace comprising medieval halls and (inevitably) a central tower nearly 300 feet in height, which fell down in 1807. The abbey is now in ruins. Beckford retains modest fame as the author of a gothic novel, *Vathek* (1786), whose Arabian protagonist builds a tower of 11,000 steps that touches the sky. It is a fitting tribute that Beckford's obsession bequeaths a feature of the English landscape to be enjoyed by future generations.

World

Strikes on militias raise tensions in Middle East

Iraq

Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent

US airstrikes targeted Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria last night, risking escalation of the region's wars despite President Trump's promises to pull troops out of the Middle East.

A Pentagon statement said that the Kataeb Hezbollah group had been hit in retaliation for a series of rocket attacks on bases in Iraq shared between the Iraqi army and forces of the US-led anti-Isis coalition, including British troops.

The airstrikes could prompt further tit-for-tat responses by Iran and its proxy forces, reminiscent of the battles between American and British forces on the one side and Iranian-supplied militias on the other a decade ago, during Iraq's civil war.

There were reports last night that a compound housing American personnel near Baghdad had been hit by mortar shells.

On Friday night 30 missiles struck a joint US-Iraqi base near the city of Kirkuk in the north of the country, killing a US contractor and injuring American and Iraqi soldiers. US officials blamed Kataeb Hezbollah (KH), a militia set up by Tehran.

"KH has a strong linkage with Iran's Quds Force and has repeatedly received lethal aid and other support from Iran that it has used to attack OIR [Operation Inherent Resolve] coalition forces," Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said.

The al-Quds Force is the international arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guard and is run by Major-General Qassem Soleimani. His co-ordination of militias across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and even Yemen has made him one of the region's best-known leaders.

The Popular Mobilisation Units, the official umbrella group for all Iraq's officially recognised militias, including

NASSER NASSER/AP

Security has been stepped up at Iraqi army bases in Anbar and elsewhere

Kataeb Hezbollah, said that last night's strikes were carried out by drones. *The New York Times*, however, quoted an anonymous official as saying that F-15 fighter jets had been used.

Iraqi security and militia sources said that at least 25 militia fighters had been killed and a further 55 wounded.

The strikes mark the first open confrontation in the proxy war between America and Iran for influence in the Middle East that has been brewing since Mr Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. Iran has found itself under huge economic pressure at home as a result.

A series of attacks on US allies in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Norway and Japan, has followed, with six oil tankers holed by mines in or near the Gulf in May and June. In September missiles and drones said to have been launched from Iran hit key Saudi oil installations.

The US has blamed the attacks on Iran, although the Islamic Republic's leadership has denied any involvement.

Friday night's rocket attack targeted an ammunition dump and the area of the Kirkuk base occupied by American troops. In the previous two months there have been similar but smaller rocket strikes on Camp Asad, a shared base in western Anbar province, Balad air base in Salaheddin province north of Baghdad and on a base in the secure zone that also houses Baghdad International Airport.

Over the weekend Iraqi generals pledged to reinforce the areas around their bases, but that served only to highlight divisions within the country's security apparatus. Some units of the regular security forces, such as the elite counter-terrorism service, are seen as pro-American and the militias that control parts of north and northwest Iraq are loyal to Iran.

US officials believe that Iran is trying to distract attention from a wave of protests against the government in neighbouring Iraq, or even retaliating for perceived American support for them.

Southern, Shia-dominated Iraq has experienced more than two months of heavy protests, which began by targeting government corruption but have increasingly also focused on Iran, which backs the prime minister, Adel Abdul-Mahdi.

Iran is also angry at repeated Israeli attacks on its militia bases in Syria and, more recently, in Iraq.

Across the border from al-Qaim, the headquarters of Kataeb Hezbollah in western Iraq, is the Syrian town of Albukamal, which is also controlled by Iranian and Iran-backed forces. They helped the Assad regime to free it from Islamic State rule two years ago and are now said to be developing it as a centre for the transfer of missiles from Iran, via Iraq, to Syria's western border with Israel and to Lebanese Hezbollah.

Albukamal has been struck several times by air raids, thought to be of Israeli origin, in co-ordination with the US. Robert Ford, a former US ambassador to Syria, said that the militia rocket attacks might be retaliation for those raids.

US officials believe that the prospect of further clashes with Iran-backed militias is now the most serious security threat to Iraq, despite the lingering presence of Isis cells in parts of the country.

US forces, the Iraqi army and air force and even the militias announced a joint anti-Isis operation in northern Iraq yesterday: a paradoxical sign of the complex dance that many outside powers are playing in both Iraq and Syria as they jostle for political advantage.

A Ukrainian soldier watches as former

Fears grow over Chinese spy ring after arrest

United States

Jacqui Goddard Miami

A Chinese man has been charged after walking on to a US navy base and taking photographs of "sensitive military facilities", deepening concerns over an international spying operation.

The case is the latest in a series of similar incidents and comes a little more than a year after another Chinese trespasser was charged in an almost identical case at Naval Air Station Key West, home to national security assets including fighter squadrons and the Joint Interagency Task Force South, an international alliance aimed at dismantling narco-trafficking networks.

Lyuyou Liao, 27, was charged with entering a military property for the purpose of photographing defence installations. He appeared before a judge in a federal court in Fort Lauderdale on Friday via a video link from Key West and will be arraigned next month.

"This is incredibly concerning," Rick Scott, a Florida senator, said. "The safety of our men and women in uniform and the security of our military assets from foreign interference is a top priority."

Special Agent Michael Miller, of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, said in a written criminal complaint that Mr Liao had been seen entering the ocean-fronted base at 6.50am on Boxing Day by walking across rocks where the perimeter security fence met the water line.

He said that there were numerous warnings posted on the security fence and grass property next to the rocks that stated: "US Government Property — No Trespassing" and "NASKW Warning: Restricted Area. Keep Out. Authorised Personnel Only".

Witnesses saw Mr Liao taking photographs of the base, including of "government buildings within the vicinity of sensitive military facilities". When military police officers challenged him, "Lyuyou Liao stated that he was trying to take photographs of the sunrise" and claimed to have limited ability to speak English, the complaint report noted.

In February Zhao Quianli, 20, who claimed to be a Chinese student, was sentenced to a year in prison after admitting to the same charge relating to the same military base. He was arrested in September last year after having been observed walking around the fence and taking photographs of buildings and a radio communications antenna belonging to the Joint Interagency Task Force South.

On December 18 Lu Jing, 56, a Chinese woman, was arrested for trespassing at Mar-a-Lago, President Trump's private members' resort in Palm Beach, Florida, and remains in custody.

Last month a Chinese businesswoman, Yujing Zhang, 33, was also found guilty of the same charge and sentenced to eight months in prison. Zhang entered a restricted zone of the resort by telling security staff that she was there to use the swimming pool. Moments later she changed her story and said she was attending a United Nations event. It later transpired that the event had been cancelled.

The incidents have deepened concerns over the threat to national security posed by increased Chinese espionage in the US. It was revealed this month that the US had quietly expelled two Chinese embassy officials, one of whom was suspected of being a spy operating under diplomatic cover who had breached a military base in Virginia.

US sets grisly

Will Pavia New York

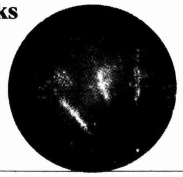
The United States suffered more mass killings this year than at any time since research into the phenomenon began in the 1970s, a grim database compiled by academics and journalists shows.

There were 41 such incidents, 33 of them mass shootings, with 210 people killed in 2019, despite a decline in the overall murder rate. A gunfight yesterday at a church in Fort Worth, Texas, in which at least two people were killed, threatened to push the total still higher.

Criminologists at Northeastern University, working in partnership with *USA Today* and the Associated Press, defined mass killings as incidents in which four or more people were killed, excluding the attacker.

James Densley, a criminologist at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota, who was not involved in com-

Germans fear fireworks are bad for the planet
Page 31



Cold comforts for men who spend days fishing on frozen Russian river
Page 34

ALEXANDER ERMOCHENKO/REUTERS; GENYA SAVILOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

prisoners are reunited with their families at the Mayorsk crossing point, escorted by soldiers from the breakaway regions

Ukrainians and separatists are freed in prisoner exchange

Ukraine

Tom Parfitt Moscow

Five riot police officers accused of killing protesters during the 2014 revolution were released by Ukraine yesterday as part of a prisoner swap with pro-Russian separatists in the east.

The officers, who allegedly shot protesters during the "Euromaidan" uprising in Kiev, were among 124 detainees handed over by Ukraine as part of the swap. It said that it had received 76 people in exchange from the breakaway Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics".

Relatives of those who were killed during the revolution had pleaded with President Zelensky not to release the officers, saying that it meant they would never be brought to justice.

Oleg Sentsov, 43, a prominent filmmaker from Crimea whom Russia handed to Ukraine as part of a swap in September, also criticised the new exchange, saying that Ukraine was giving up "real murderers" while other Ukrainians would remain in captivity in Russia and the rebel territories. "All that Ukrainians fought for is turning to ash," he said.

Mr Zelensky, 41, made the return of prisoners an election pledge when he came to power in April and many Ukrainians supported the exchange despite criticism over releasing the officers from the Berkut unit.

A prisoner exchange was one point agreed by Mr Zelensky and President Putin of Russia when they met for peace talks over the war in eastern Ukraine brokered by President Macron of France and Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, in Paris this month.

Oleg Yanishevsky, Sergei Zinchenko, Pavel Abroskin, Oleksandr Maryn-chenko and Serhiy Tamtura were accused of shooting protesters on Instytutska Street in Kiev on February 20, 2014. Forty-eight people died and eighty were injured.

The killings were part of a crackdown instituted while President Yanukovych, a supporter of Moscow, tried to cling to power. He had faced determined street protests over his refusal to enter an economic agreement with the EU and fled to Russia two days later.

About a hundred people gathered in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv yesterday to protest against the officers' release. Late on Saturday protesters tried to stop a minibus carrying three of the officers leaving a detention centre in Kiev in preparation for the exchange.

The five Berkut officers had been in custody or under house arrest but had not stood trial. One leading Ukrainian news website condemned their exchange for captured servicemen as "criminals for heroes".

Others were in favour. Kateryna Kruk, a Ukrainian political commentator, said: "This prisoner swap is incredibly hard. The Maidan [2014 Revolution] wound hurts seeing riot policemen accused of shooting us prepared for an exchange. And yet if we can save someone's life, we should do it. There are many ways to honour the dead and much less to save those alive."

Buses brought the detainees to checkpoints between rebel and Ukrainian-held territory for the swap.

Mr Zelensky's office published photographs of the former detainees clutching plastic bags full of belongings as they were freed. Waiting relatives embraced them and shared food.

Ukrainian soldiers, two policemen, a writer, a blogger and two journalists were among those released in return by the rebel regions. Some of those who were freed said that they were civilians who had been captured and convicted of state treason or other alleged crimes while visiting relatives in the rebel areas.

Fourteen detainees whom Ukraine had been prepared to give up in the swap refused to go to rebel territory, an official in Kiev said. Four Ukrainians also declined to take part and stayed in the rebel territories.

record for mass murders in a single year

piling the database, said that it bore out his own research. "This seems to be the age of mass shootings," he said. "What makes this even more exceptional is that mass killings are going up at a time when general homicides, overall homicides, are going down."

The second worst year was 2006, when 38 mass killings were recorded, and 2017 was the year with the most fatalities from mass killings: 224 people, including 58 murdered in one incident at a Las Vegas music festival.

The first of this year's mass killings happened on January 20, in Oregon, when a man brandishing an axe killed his mother, stepfather, girlfriend and his nine-month-old baby before he was shot dead by the police.

Many of the killings that followed did not make national headlines, possibly because they were not carried out in public places. In a single weekend at the beginning of August a mass shooting at a Walmart in Texas followed by another on a busy street in Dayton, Ohio, led to fresh calls in Congress for stricter gun laws.

22 people were killed at an El Paso Walmart by a man hunting "Mexicans"

A total of 22 people were killed and 24 were injured in the Texas attack. It was carried out in El Paso by a young man who had posted a manifesto online about an "Hispanic invasion of Texas". He told detectives that he was targeting Mexicans. Barely 11 hours later another man opened fire in Dayton, killing nine people, including his sister.

Eight of this year's mass killings were carried out in public places. Twelve people were killed at a municipal building in Virginia Beach by a former employee. In Texas, 28 days after the Walmart shooting, a man with a criminal record and a history of mental illness went on a shooting rampage in Odessa, west Texas, killing seven people.

An oil worker named Daniel Munoz told Associated Press that he had been at the scene of the Walmart shooting, on August 3, and was driving to a bar on August 31 when he saw a man in another car brandish a gun before spraying his vehicle with bullets. "You can't just always assume you're safe," he said.

Five stabbed in Chanukkah rampage at rabbi's home

Will Pavia

A man wielding a knife said to be the size of a broomstick burst into a rabbi's home during Chanukkah celebrations on Saturday and stabbed five people.

He was seen driving away after the attack in Monsey, north of New York, shortly before 10pm but witnesses were said to have posted the vehicle's registration on Twitter and the police stopped a car at midnight in Harlem and arrested the driver. The New York police department said that the suspect had been identified as Grafton Thomas, 37, from a nearby village.

The attack is the latest of several targetting Jews in New York. Four people were shot dead at a kosher grocery store in New Jersey earlier this month.

Last night President Trump denounced the attack as "horrific" and urged Americans to "come together to fight, confront, and eradicate the evil scourge of antisemitism".

Monsey has a large Orthodox Jewish population and the home of the rabbi, Chaim Rottenberg, was crowded on Saturday for the lighting of a candle to mark the seventh night of Chanukkah.

Aaron Kohn, 65, said that he had been by the door when the attacker entered, carrying what looked like an umbrella. The man had drawn a large knife, he said, "almost like a broomstick."

He rushed into a large room where the celebrations were under way and began stabbing the occupants.

The suspect appeared in a New York court yesterday charged with five counts of attempted murder. He denied the charges.

World

Tourists told to flee raging bushfires

Australia
Bernard Lagan Sydney

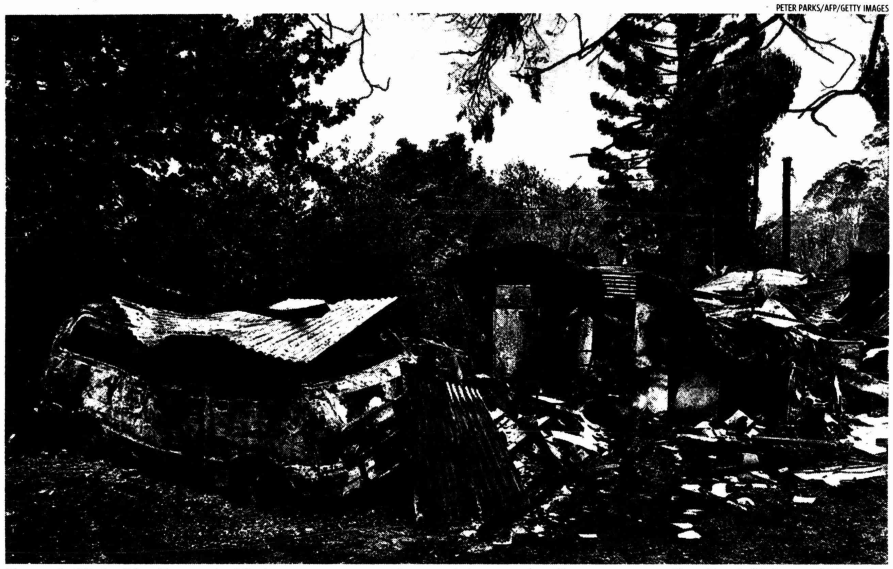
Tens of thousands of holidaymakers were told to leave a southeastern corner of Australia yesterday over fears that they could become trapped by rampant fires.

Emergency officials compared forecast conditions to "Black Saturday" in 2009 when 173 Australians were killed in the country's worst bushfire disaster and said that if people did not leave the area firefighters may not be able to reach the estimated 32,000 enjoying the beaches and forest towns of East Gippsland in Victoria.

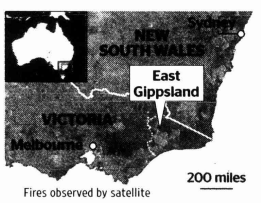
Andrew Crisp, emergency management commissioner for Victoria, said that three fires burning in East Gippsland could force the closure of the last main route in and out of the area by this morning. Several roads have already been closed by fire and smoke and the closure of the Princes Highway would leave an area the size of Belgium isolated.

"If you're holidaying in that part of the state, it's time that you left," Mr Crisp told a press conference in Melbourne. "We're coming out with this advice now: we want to give people time to leave East Gippsland now." In conditions mirroring February 2009, temperatures of up to 44C were expected to hit the region today coupled with high winds that would whip up the fires.

PETER PARKS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Homes in Bilpin, 50 miles west of Sydney, are among a thousand destroyed as fires tear across New South Wales and Victoria



Fires observed by satellite

Mr Crisp told holidaymakers along the coast and camping in the region's national parks and forests: "It is important that you now think very, very seriously about leaving."

Victoria's emergency management service urged residents to leave immediately and warned them that if conditions changed or worsened there might be nothing that it could do to help. A total of 45,000 people live in the area.

Managers at holiday parks said that most of their customers were opting to stay put. "The receptionist here has told us that the direction of the wind means we won't be affected," Iain Podd, who remains at a holiday park on the edge of the fire zone, told *The Australian*.

Officials were comparing the situation to the worst fire tragedy in Australia's memory. "In my own experience, this is the most significant day since Black Saturday," Ben Rankin, a fire controller, said. More than 500 firefighters had been pulled back from fire fronts.

"It's a very serious, life-threatening situation, make no mistake," Kevin Parkyn, senior forecaster at the Bureau of Meteorology, said.

Fires burning in New South Wales have destroyed about a thousand homes and killed nine people since they started in September.

The New Year's Eve fireworks in Sydney are expected to go ahead despite calls to halt them. The fire service has refused to rule out a last-minute cancellation but Scott Morrison, the prime minister, and Clover Moore, the lord mayor of Sydney, pushed for the display to go ahead.

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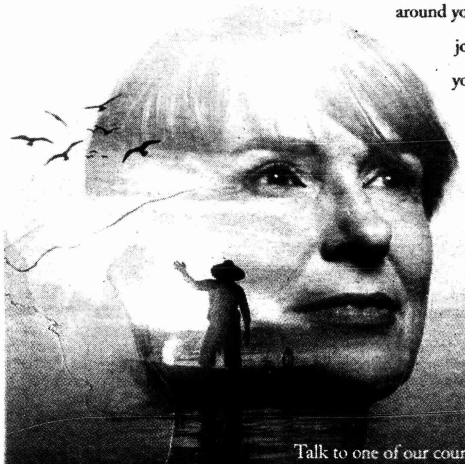

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AUDLEY

Riyadh police arrest 200 for harassment and immorality

Saudi Arabia
Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent

Saudi Arabia has announced a crackdown on improper dressing, public displays of affection and sexual harassment in an attempt to prove that its social reforms do not undermine traditional values.

The move, which has seen more than 200 people arrested, appears to be a response to a music festival heavily promoted to highlight attempts by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to open up the entertainment industry. The MDL Beast festival, held on the weekend before Christmas and featuring stars such as David Guetta and the South Korean boy-band Monsta X, was broadcast by "social media influencers" flown in for the occasion.

The event was mixed sex, a relatively recent phenomenon only allowed under new, more relaxed rules. Men and women, many dressed in T-shirts without abayas or traditional coverings, danced together. Women have since, however, complained about widespread sexual harassment. A social media hashtag, "MDL Beast harassment", prompted complaints by members of the audience and performers.

"The level of sexual harassment at the concert was just ridiculous," one woman was quoted as saying. She said that she and most of the women there found it difficult to dance without people walking by and "trying to grope you up and feel on your body".

The Riyadh police said that they had arrested 88 people for sexual harassment based on videos and other information from the event.

Separately they said that they had arrested 120 men and women for offending public morals, including by dressing inappropriately.

Deadly missile attack on military parade

Yemen At least five people were killed and eight injured when a missile was fired into a military parade in the southern town of al-Dhalea. No claim of responsibility was made but Yemen's Security Belt forces, part of the southern separatist front, blamed the Iran-aligned Houthi group. Witnesses said that the missile had hit a guest platform. Yemen has suffered almost five years of conflict since the Houthis ousted President Hadi. A Saudi-led coalition is trying to restore his government. Al-Dhalea, a separatist-held town, lies on the road from the port of Aden to the Houthi-controlled capital, Sanaa. *(Reuters)*

Anti-Islam politician tweets Prophet cartoon

Netherlands Geert Wilders, a Dutch anti-Islam politician, tweeted the winning entry in his contest to find the best caricature of the Prophet Muhammad. Images of the Prophet are forbidden in Islam as idolatrous. Mr Wilders, who leads the Party for Freedom, cancelled a similar contest last year after the police arrested a man who had threatened to kill him. *(Reuters)*

Presidential hopeful will 'resist from abroad'

Ivory Coast The former rebel leader Guillaume Soro will organise "political resistance" from abroad after his plan to return to the country was aborted when his party headquarters was raided by security forces. President Ouattara warned him against destabilising the country but Mr Soro said: "I will organise the resistance just as de Gaulle did from London." *(AFP)*

Kim meets key officials as talks deadline looms

North Korea Kim Jong-un has convened a meeting of key party officials having given Washington a deadline to shift its stance on stalled nuclear talks before the year's end. There has been speculation that Pyongyang plans to test an intercontinental missile as a "gift" for the US. "We'll find out what the surprise is and we'll deal with it very successfully," President Trump has said. *(AFP)*

Taliban kills 17 in attack on militia commander

Afghanistan The Taliban killed at least 17 militiamen in an attack on Saturday, an Afghan official said. The attack, said to have targeted a militia commander in the northern Takhar province who escaped unhurt, came after a series of attacks last week in which 40 Afghan soldiers died. The Taliban's ruling body is considering a US proposal for a ceasefire. *(AP)*

Hunt for paedophile after suspected kidnap

Serbia A 12-year-old girl who disappeared ten days ago and was believed to have been taken by a convicted paedophile has been found alive, Serbian police said. She was taken to hospital in the southern city of Nis while hundreds of officers with dogs and helicopters continued searching for the suspect, who spent 12 years in jail for the rape and attempted rape of two girls.

Lolita accusations against novelist shake French intelligentsia

France
Charles Bremner Paris

French ministers want legal action and the end of a state allowance for a novelist who has been accused by a publisher of abusing her when she was 14.

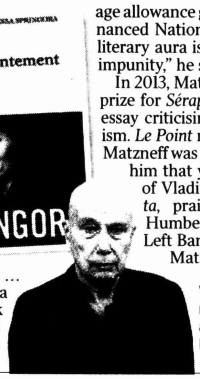
Their calls followed uproar over claims by Vanessa Springora, head of the Juilliard literary publishing house, of her alleged grooming as a teenager by Gabriel Matzneff.

Matzneff, 83, earned fame with works celebrating his attraction to teenage girls and boys in the late 20th century. Ms Springora wrote of the author: "At 14, you're not supposed to find a 50-year-old man waiting for you at the school gate, you're not supposed to live in a hotel with him or find yourself in his bed." Her account, in *Le Consentement*, a book to be published this week, has forced France to confront its indulgence in the past century for conduct by its arts stars that is now punished as paedophilia. Ms Springora, 47, is the first alleged vicitim of Matzneff to have denounced him.

In his only statement, he said that Ms Springora's book was a "hostile, nasty, denigratory work intended to hurt".

Child-protection campaigners have targeted Matzneff for years without result. The alleged acts from the 1980s are too old to be covered by present laws that make it illegal for adults to have sex with children under 15, but accept that a minor is capable of giving consent. Campaigners want Matzneff pursued for the offence of "promoting paedophilia" in books still in circulation.

Adrien Taquet, the minister for the protection of children, said that he had instructed staff "to determine if prosecution could be envisaged against Gabriel Matzneff". He described the writer as "a man who pushed horror to the point of relating his acts in his books ... and campaigned for paedophilia in his [published] diaries". Franck Riester, the culture minister, said that he was aiming to end an old-age allowance given by the state-financed National Book Centre. "A literary aura is not a guarantee of impunity," he said.



Vanessa Springora made the claim against Gabriel Matzneff in a book

In 2013, Matzneff won a leading prize for *Séraphin, C'est la Fin*, an essay criticising modern puritanism. *Le Point* magazine, for which Matzneff was a columnist, likened him that year to the narrator of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, praising him as "the Humbert Humbert of the Left Bank".

Matzneff's supporters said he was the victim of a witch hunt. "I loathe paedophilia but I also hate street justice," Franz-Olivier Giesbert, an author and journalist, said.

Ms Springora's book, in which she said she met Matzneff at 13 at a lunch with her mother, has revived uncomfortable memories for the French intelligentsia of the recently light-hearted attitude towards sex with minors. In a clip from a popular talk show in 1990, the studio audience chuckles as Bernard Pivot, the host, jokes with Matzneff over his fondness for underage girls. Pivot, 84, a revered literary figure, says that times have changed. "In the 70s and 80s, literature came before morality; today morality comes before literature. Morally, this is progress," he tweeted on Friday.

Year ends with a whimper as greens push firework ban

Germany
Bruno Waterfield

Environmentalists are celebrating a seasonal supermarket ban on the sale of fireworks as a German New Year's Eve tradition falls foul of pollution fears.

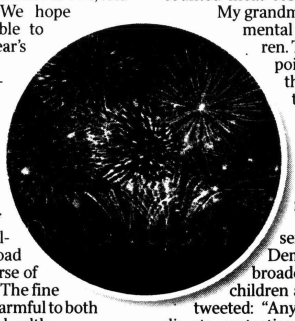
Last December 31, German revellers set off more than €133 million worth of fireworks outside their homes.

The new year — or Silvester — tradition is attracting criticism, however, from Germany's increasingly strident environmentalists for polluting the air and scaring animals.

This year, the Rewe supermarket chain, with 3,300 stores, has stopped selling fireworks and the large Hornbach DIY chain will ban the sale of new year fireworks from next year.

"The fireworks bang lasts for an hour, but we want to protect animals and have clean air 365 days a year," Uli Budnik, of Rewe, said.

The German association of the pyrotechnic industry, VPI, has dismissed the bans as a "sham debate". fireworks and Klaus Gotzen, the director of VPI, told *Stern* magazine: "We hope that we will be able to match last year's figures again."


New year fireworks will no longer be on sale in some German chain stores

According to official figures 4,500 tonnes of fine particulates pollute the air every New Year's Eve because of the fireworks — equivalent to one sixth of the particulate pollution released by road traffic over the course of a year in Germany. The fine dust particulate is harmful to both human and animal health.

German environmentalists are calling for fireworks to be banned in 98 cities that are failing to reach EU targets for particulate pollution. "We hope to see a shift in society and that people buy fewer rockets and crackers this year," Juergen Resch, head of the German environmental campaign group DUH, said.

A YouGov opinion poll at the weekend found that 57 per cent of Germans would support a ban on fireworks for environmental and safety reasons despite 84 per cent saying that they found the new year displays beautiful.

Germany's growing environmental backlash and cultural arguments over many aspects of the country's traditions or way of life are causing unease.

A WDR radio presenter was forced to apologise at the weekend after broadcasting a children's choir singing a humorous version of a traditional tune rewritten with lyrics portraying grandparents as "old environmental pigs".

The lyrics attacked the baby boomer generation for their attachment to large, gas-guzzling cars, for driving motorbikes and for eating meat.

"My grandmother fries a chop, a chop, a chop every day, because discounted meat costs next to nothing. My grandma is an old environmental pig," sang the children. To rub in the serious point behind the song, the video ends with the children repeating a quote from the teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg: "We will not let you get away with this."

Armin Laschet, a senior Christian Democrat, accused the broadcaster of "using children against the old". He tweeted: "Anyone who escalates climate protection into a generation conflict, or even exploits children against grandparents, endangers social cohesion."

The broadcaster apologised and has deleted the video of the children singing from its website. "We regret that satire has hurt the feelings of part of our audience," it said in a statement.

DOUG PERRINE/NATUREPL/SOLENT NEWS

Mother's ride **At 40 tonnes and 50ft long, a humpback whale is easily able to keep her calf close to the surface off Tonga**

Stop acting as victims, East Germans told

Bruno Waterfield

One of Germany's most prominent and respected politicians has called on eastern Germans to stop playing the victim card.

The comments by Wolfgang Schäuble, Speaker of the Bundestag, come as Germany phases out a solidarity tax aimed at helping the former communist country recover after the fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years ago.

In an article for *Die Tageszeitung*, a newspaper based in Berlin, Mr Schäuble, 77, lamented that a "specifically east German sense of identity" was a "remarkable finding, 30 years after state unity".

"Some maintain their own victim status, instead of confidently pointing out their valuable experience in adapting to massive social upheaval, compared to the west," he wrote.

Last month a government report found that 57 per cent of east Germans felt like second-class citizens and only 38 per cent believed reunification had been a success.

The unemployment rate is a third higher in the east than in the west, driving a continuing population exodus.

East Germans make up 16 per cent of the country's population but hold less than 2 per cent of top jobs. Even in the east, western Germans occupy 77 per cent of senior positions in politics, business, science, the media, the military and the justice system.

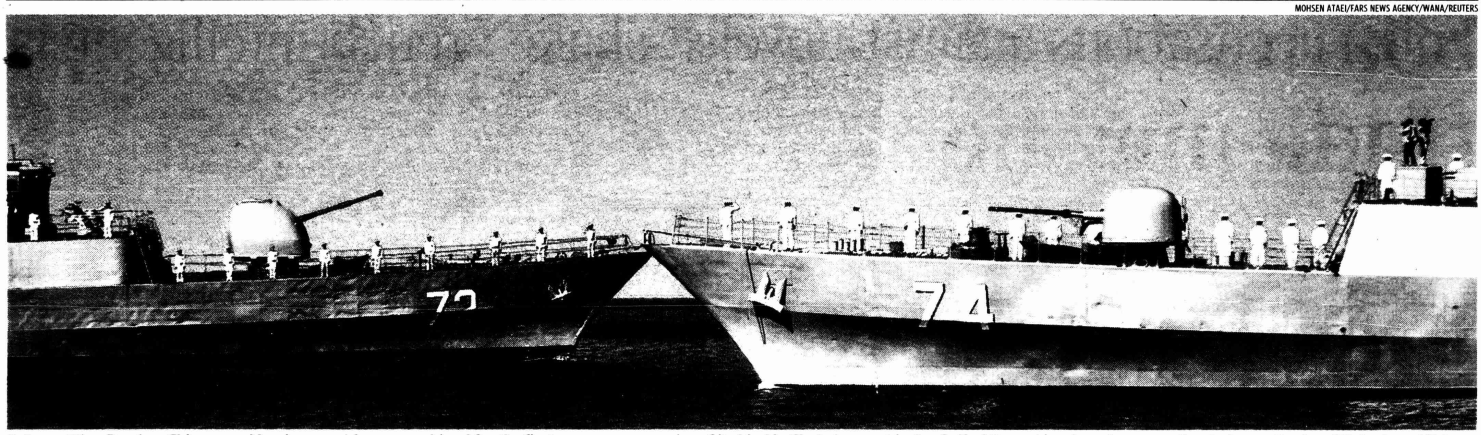
In recent regional elections in Thuringia, formerly part of East Germany, the far-right Alternative for Germany came first in every age group under 60, including first-time voters, after campaigning on a slogan of "completing" unification.

Mr Schäuble acknowledged that lower living standards, a lack of recognition, and even "family-related insults" had "cemented the divisions rather than helping to overcome it".

"Many east Germans still identify with their former territory," he wrote. "A majority of them see themselves primarily as east Germans, unlike west Germans, who see themselves primarily as Germans."

Last week the government began moves to phase out the "soli tax", introduced in 1991, to help the impoverished east of Germany catch up with the west after four decades of communism. The tax will be abolished for 90 per cent of taxpayers from 2021.

MOHSEN ATAEI/FARS NEWS AGENCY/WANA/REUTERS



Sailor-rattling **Russian, Chinese and Iranian naval forces combined for the first war games exercise of its kind in Chabahar port in the Gulf of Oman in a sign of co-operation between the two US rivals and Tehran**

New power plants blamed for turning Mekong blue

Cambodia

Simon Roughneen Phnom Penh

The Mekong River has turned a bright and striking blue, but this eye-catching sight has raised concerns about the environment and the livelihoods of those living in the region.

The Mekong runs for nearly 3,100 miles and flows through China, Laos, Burma, Thailand and Cambodia, filling a vast rice-bowl delta in Vietnam that empties into the South China Sea around Ho Chi Minh City. It is normally a yellowish-brown due to the sediment it carries downstream.

The azure hue seen in recent weeks along stretches of the Mekong is stirring concern that dozens of hydroelectric dams — the biggest of which are in China — are interrupting the river's flow and blocking the sediment that should be carried to farmland downriver, helping to feed 60 million people.

The world's twelfth longest river, the Mekong provides a lifeline in terms of water, food, commerce, irrigation and transport for the many millions of people living alongside it.

Earlier this month the Mekong River Commission, a regional intergovernmental body, put the colour change down to "extremely low flow, slow drop in the river sediments," after warning last month that the region could face serious drought in the new year. Less sediment means less food for wildlife, which then threatens the ecological balance.

Two new hydropower projects have opened on the Laotian part of the river in recent months, with the 1.3 gigawatt Xayaburi dam built to export electricity to Thailand and the smaller Don Sahong project helping to power the grid in Cambodia.

Utrecht University, in the Netherlands, recently published scientific research saying "increased salt intrusion and tides in the Mekong Delta relate to sediment starvation from upstream dams and sand mining in the delta". Meanwhile Vietnam's National Centre for Hydrometeorological Forecasting said the delta could face a decrease of 35 to 40 per cent in flow by February.

The Mekong irrigates or fertilises an area three times the size of the UK, taking in Cambodia's Tonle Sap, the biggest lake in southeast Asia. Annual monsoon rains deluge the river and lake, causing the flow to reverse and carry huge quantities of fish into the nets of eager lake fishermen.

This year the phenomenon barely made a ripple. "Typically the Tonle Sap heartbeat — the duration from the beginning of its expansion to the beginning of its contraction — is four to five months, but this year it only lasted five weeks," Brian Eyler, author of *Last Days of the Mighty Mekong*, said. "Most signals point to a new normal for the Mekong system — one where efforts will likely shift from avoiding the worst impacts from dams and climate change to struggling through and adapting to those impacts as they continue to affect the region," Mr Eyler said.

Football boss strikes a blow for Turkish women

Turkey

Burhan Yuksekkas Istanbul

Jokes about the opposing fans' mothers are a staple of football matches in Turkey, but that is no longer the case in Kayseri, a city in central Anatolia.

Instead, fans on all sides are applauding the country's first football club chairwoman.

Berna Gozbasi, 46, has thrust the men in her conservative hometown aside to take the position, even as Turkey is locked in a debate over misogyny and violence against women. She is the only female face in the VIP seats at matches and her supporters hope she can inspire other women.

More immediately, they pray that she can guide Kayserispor away from the foot of Turkey's Super League after bad management and financial problems. It has had three chairmen and three coaches in two years, and came near to bankruptcy over a £30 million debt.

Ms Gozbasi, an export merchant who spent her school years playing team sports, stepped up and has brought a fresh sense of optimism to the club.

"The competitive spirit worked for me in my career," she told *The Times*. "I used to use a lot of football terms to explain business matters, now I'll try adapting my business knowledge to football." Although women are becoming more visible in sport and business, they still face huge problems in their daily lives. More than 300 Turkish women have been killed by men this year, according to the interior ministry. A recent spate of high-profile murders has prompted women to stage protests, which are often quelled by the police with tear gas, rubber bullets and batons.

Ms Gozbasi, the divorced mother of a teenage daughter, has spoken out about the traditional patriarchy of Anatolian society, which often instils a culture of machismo and violence, and said that she would be supporting women's initiatives to raise awareness among football fans.

Berna Gozbasi has taken over at a struggling club in the country's Super League

Bulent Uygun, 48, Kayserispor's coach, said that the patriarchal culture of Anatolian football clubs had brought them to near-collapse. "Men have messed up nearly all the football clubs in Turkey and we needed a woman to shake things up," he said.

Spain's squid trade may be threatened by Brexit storm

Spain

Isambard Wilkinson Vigo

The fisherman's eyes brightened when he recalled his voyages to hunt squid 7,000 miles away in capricious seas off "Las Malvinas".

For three decades Antonio Fernández, 70, sailed twice a year from Vigo, on the coast of northwest Spain, to the Falkland Islands. After each three-month expedition he returned with his ship loaded to the gunwales to meet the Spanish appetite for calamar. But standing on the city's dockside, next to a trawler flying a Falklands Union flag, he and Javier Touza, the ship's owner, voiced fears that Brexit would scupper the £200 million Falklands to Vigo squid trade, which supports 10,000 jobs in Spain and the UK overseas territory.

"The impact of Brexit is very worrying," said Mr Touza, president of Vigo's fishing vessel owners' co-operative. "Politicians in Spain and Britain are doing nothing and we are walking off a cliff. There is no plan B. After Brexit will Spanish boats be able to fish in Falklands waters? Will Falklands squid be subject to tariffs entering the EU? Nobody has an answer."

The Falklands' main export is loligo squid and 90 per cent of that — 80,000 tonnes this year — goes to Vigo. More than a third of squid eaten in Spain and Europe is from the Falklands. Its fishing companies are almost all joint ventures with Spanish partners, with 16 trawlers dedicated to netting squid.

All of that will end if Britain leaves the bloc without any agreements in place. World Trade Organisation custom tariffs, which range from 6 to 18 per cent, will apply. Mr Touza said the uncertainty had cast a shadow over commerce reliant on long-term, multimillion-pound investments in shipbuilding, crew and maintenance, with fishermen seeking assurances that the status quo or similar trading conditions would prevail.

"We have the closest relationship with our Falklands associates that has developed over many years," Mr Touza said. "We want to keep it a win-win for both sides. If Brexit destroys this precious trade it will be lose-lose. All we want is to work, to keep on fishing."

Lengthy negotiations could be catastrophic, he said, because maintaining idle fishing fleets was costly — a sentiment echoed by the authorities in the Falklands, which did not get a vote in the 2016 EU referendum.

Teslyn Barkman, a member of the Falklands legislative assembly responsible for managing natural resources, said: "It's critical that we safeguard our tariff-free access with the EU. We have a profitable relationship that is crucial to our economy that we wish to protect.

"If there is no agreed framework to leave the EU, or a large burden of tariffs and quotas look likely to be imposed, we hope the UK would support us to try and mitigate the negative effects to the Falklands that this will have."

In Vigo Mr Touza, looking out across the port, bowed his head as rain drizzled from low scudding clouds.

"Most of the fishing businesses here are family-run," he said. "It's a big deal for us. It's also a big source of income for the Falklands. But nobody in power wants to talk about it."

The Falklands to Vigo squid industry is worth about £200 million a year

SHAHAR AZRAN/REX FEATURES

In the wings **Dancers at New York's Apollo Theatre perform at the annual Kwanzaa celebration of African-American culture**

Migrant sues coastguard for shooting him

Greece

Anthee Carassava Athens

A Syrian refugee is suing the Greek government after he was shot in the head by coastguard officers while travelling on a smuggler's boat.

The 68-year-old man was left disabled after the incident in 2014, which occurred during a lengthy chase of a speedboat carrying several migrants and piloted by Turkish smugglers. In the first case of its kind, he is seeking €100,000 in damages, according to local reports, and some in Greece fear that it will lead to a flurry of similar cases as the country struggles to deal with a new wave of migrant arrivals.

The refugee, who now lives in Sweden and whose name has not been given, filed the claim against the ministry of maritime affairs at the weekend at a court on Rhodes. He spent several weeks in a hospital on the island in a critical condition after the incident.

He was one of a dozen migrants below decks of the speedboat when it was challenged by the coastguard as the smugglers tried to reach the remote islands of Kalymnos and Pserimos. Several migrants were shot and one was airlifted to a hospital in Thessaloniki for treatment.

The coastguard has said that the speedboat tried to ram its vessel, injuring one of its officers. The officers opened fire only to halt the engine, they said, insisting that the migrants below deck had not been visible.

The Syrian refugee says that the officers sprayed the entire hull with bullets. A trial date has not yet been set.

Several other reports have emerged of the Greek coastguard opening fire on migrant boats. Last month 27 migrants claimed that they had been shot at as they tried to reach the island of Chios.

The rules of engagement for the Greek coastguard say that officers are licensed to open fire to disable boats trying to enter Greek territory if those on board are armed.

In September the conservative government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a series of emergency measures in response to a sharp increase in migrant arrivals over the summer. Despite those measures 8,306 migrants arrived on Greek shores last month, four times the number in November last year, according to the UN. Mr Mitsotakis has accused the EU of failing to support border countries.

Avalanches kill four skiers in Italy

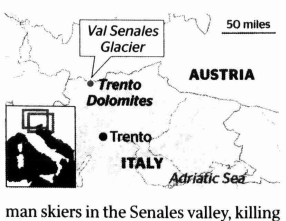
Italy

Philip Willan Rome

An Italian skier was killed by an avalanche in the Dolomites yesterday, a day after a German woman and her seven-year-old daughter were among three people killed by a snow slide on the Val Senales glacier in South Tyrol.

The Italian was among four people struck by the avalanche near a mountain refuge in the Spallone dei Massodi area of the Brenta Dolomites as they climbed a canyon to prepare for an off-piste descent. Two of his companions were uninjured and a third was taken to hospital in Trento suffering from hypothermia.

A day earlier a 150m-wide wall of snow had crashed into a group of German skiers in the Senales valley, killing two seven-year-old girls and the mother of one of them. Italian media said that the 35-year-old woman and her daughter were from the German village of Hauteroda in Thuringia.



A man and his 11-year-old son, from Eschweiler near Aachen, were also injured in the avalanche on the Teufelsegg ski slope. They were evacuated to hospital in Merano.

Three helicopters helped a 70-strong rescue team to search for any other missing skiers.

Matteo Renzi, the former Italian prime minister, sent his condolences to the families of the victims. "Anyone who has ever skied with their children feels their blood freeze when reading news like today's from Val Senales," he said in a Twitter post.

Strong winds have raised the danger of avalanches in the Italian Alps, which are crowded during the winter holidays.

Ten people have lost their lives in mountain accidents in Italy in recent days and an average of 26 people have died annually on Italian mountains over the past decade.

Look up from smartphones and talk, Pope tells families

Philip Willan

The Pope has urged young people to raise their heads from their smartphones and communicate with those around them in an appeal for a more harmonious family life.

Speaking at midday angelus prayers in St Peter's Square yesterday, the 83-year-old, who has harnessed modern technology to spread the message of the Gospel, praised the Holy Family of Nazareth for praying, working and communicating together.

"And I ask myself: You, in your family, do you know how to communicate or are you like those kids at meal tables, each one with their mobile phone, busy chatting?" the Pope said.

He added: "At that table there is the kind of silence that you might find at Mass. But they don't communicate with one another.

"We must resume dialogue in the family: fathers, parents, children, grandparents and siblings must communicate with one another."

The call for greater interaction within the family marked the Catholic church's feast of the Holy Family, in which the obedience of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to the will of God is held up as an example for modern society.

Clare Foges, page 23

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Car engines that run for days at a time are indispensable when men from the coldest city in the world go fishing

Marc Bennetts

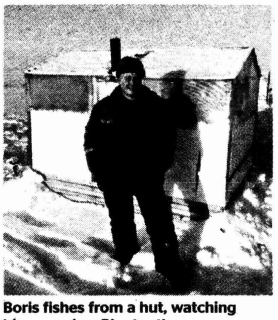
YAKUTSK

"It's starting to get chilly now," said Aytal, a taxi driver, as we waited at lights on the snowy streets of Yakutsk, the coldest city in the world. It was minus 44C.

"Starting to?" I asked. "Yeah. Last week, it was like spring. Minus 33C or something," Aytal said, with a casual wave of his hand. There was probably an element of bravado to his comment, but it's not hard to understand why he and other locals are so blasé about such weather.

Average winter temperatures in Yakutsk, capital of Yakutia, a vast, frozen region in northeast Russia, are minus 40C, five degrees beyond the point at which exposed skin is in danger of frostbite. Many residents of the city, the largest in the world built on permafrost, told me that they consider minus 45C or below to be genuinely cold. The lowest temperature recorded in the region was minus 67.7C. Schools in Yakutsk, population 318,000, shut at minus 50C or lower.

But children miss school less often now. Climate change means temperatures have risen by almost 3C in the past few decades, causing permafrost to thaw and damaging buildings whose foundations are driven deep into the frozen earth.



Boris fishes from a hut, watching his prey via a Bluetooth camera

It's colder in the countryside, as I discovered when I visited the ice road across the frozen River Lena. In November, President Putin ordered the construction of a two-mile bridge spanning the Lena by 2025, but until then, motorists who want to cross must use a passenger ferry during the brief summer — when temperatures can soar to 35C — and the ice road in the winter.

The Lena's "road" officially opens for vehicles weighing less than three tonnes when the ice is 35cm thick. Anything heavier risks plunging into the freezing waters. A day earlier two people drowned when they dodged traffic inspectors and drove their lorry — weighing five tonnes and loaded with horse meat — on to the frozen river. The top was still poking out of the ice.

I had come to the Lena to visit ice fishermen, hardy souls who spend their days on the snow-covered river in portable huts. The fishermen set up the huts, which range from basic constructions to "VIP models" complete with gas cookers and other mod cons, at the start of winter and leave them there until the onset of spring.

Cars are almost impossible to restart in such extreme cold, so the fishermen keep their engines running on the ice until it's time to go home. Indeed, many motorists in Yakutia leave their engines on throughout the long winter.

"Is this your hobby?" I asked Boris, a ruddy-cheeked fisherman in his thirties, who handed me a very welcome cup of tea in his hut. "No, it's an obsession," he laughed, as wood crackled in his stove, the smoke rising into the frigid air through a metal chimney. "Sometimes me and my friends come out here for days at a time. We sleep in our cars."

Boris showed me the Bluetooth-enabled underwater camera that he uses to track fish — white salmon, pike and perch — circling his bait. "That one's been swimming around here all day but won't bite," Boris said, pointing at a colour image on his smartphone. We sat contemplating the icy waters below. It was both relaxing and, somehow, invigorating.

When I left Boris, a brilliant sun hung low over the winter landscape. In nearby fields, Yakut horses sought out vegetation under the snow. These remarkably resilient animals can survive without shelter in temperatures of minus 65C.

On the drive back, we barely passed another car until we approached the outskirts of the city. Yakutia is almost as large as India, but with fewer than a million inhabitants. Although tourism is slowly growing, the harsh natural elements and the logistical difficulties of getting to Yakutia — more than a six-hour flight from Moscow — mean the region will always struggle to attract visitors. That might be bad news for the tourism industry, but at least nothing will disturb the tranquility of Boris and his fellow fishermen.

THE TIMES
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Fringe benefits for readers at barber's literary salon

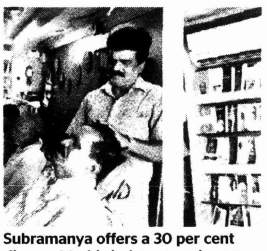
India
Amrit Dhillon Delhi

A popular barber can keep you waiting for half an hour or more, leaving you to while away the time on your mobile phone.

But anyone caught staring at the screen of their mobile device inside the Supreme Hair Salon in Tumakuru, south India, is met with a glare from the owner and an order: "Pick up a book and read."

Customers can choose from the 800 or so books that line the walls of the establishment. They read until Subramanya, the owner, is free to give them the haircut, shave or head massage that they came in for, and it is not enough to merely scan the pages superficially without learning anything. Subramanya, 52, keeps a notebook by the cash till where customers can summarise the pages they have read, in return for a 30 per cent discount. For new customers this precis serves as a useful reading guide.

A poor childhood deprived Subramanya of an education. He was forced to drop out of school because his father, also a barber, could not afford the fees and he began working to supplement the meagre family income but the yearning to read never left him. An autodidact, he began buying books and reading voraciously.



Subramanya offers a 30 per cent discount to his in-house reviewers

As his business flourished Subramanya took out a loan and was able to move from cutting hair under a tree to a spacious salon. He bought most of the books himself but the rest were donated by wellwishers.

The "literary tax" that he imposes on customers is his way of inculcating the pleasure and importance of reading for a well-stocked mind. "All my young customers do is read newspapers or look at their phones, but we have so much treasure in our literature," he said.

Word spread among the cognoscenti in the Tumakuru area and over time the salon became known as India's own version of the Parisian café and literary meeting place Les Deux Magots, a place where writers gathered to share ideas over cigarettes and coconut water.

For the past few years it has been not only a hair salon but also a literary salon, where book launches, readings and poetry recitals are held. "Some customers borrow books and never return them but I don't mind. As long as someone somewhere is reading it, that's good enough for me," Subramanya said.

His reading has made him a rationalist, as he put it, consciously eschewing the religiosity, superstition and caste prejudice that permeate India. Devaraj Hirehalli, a local journalist, said: "He's an independent thinker and that's why he deliberately chose his wife from another caste, to make a point, otherwise the barber caste only marry into another barber caste."

Nataraj Huliyar, an English professor at Bangalore University, said that Subramanya's salon was a force for good. "He keeps books on progressive ideas, on equality, on the evils of the caste system, on women's rights, so that's what customers imbibe."

And the haircuts? "He's very good. He gives trendy cuts to the young and sober cuts to older people like me," the professor said.

'World's oldest rhino' dies in east Africa

Tanzania
Graeme Baker Cape Town

An eastern black rhino thought to be the oldest in the world has died at the age of 57.

Fausta roamed free across Tanzania's Ngorongoro crater, fending off hyenas, eluding poachers and living the solitary life for more than half a century. She was taken into a specialist care sanctuary three years ago, suffering blindness and other health problems.

Wildlife officials said that Fausta had died at the weekend of natural causes. "This was the oldest rhino in the world, that's history for Tanzania," Freddy Manongi, the chief of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), said.

The NCAA said that Fausta was first recorded in the Ngorongoro crater in 1965, aged between three and four years, by scientists from the University of Dar es Salaam.

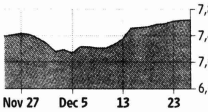
It said that her health began to deteriorate in 2016, after "vicious animals, especially hyenas, started attacking her and she received very serious sores".

The rhino never had calves, something conservationists have suggested may have contributed to her long life. Wild rhinos typically live between 37 and 43 years.

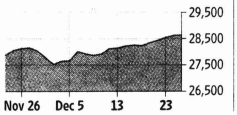
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close, change on the week)

FTSE 100
7,644.90 (-62.42) ▼

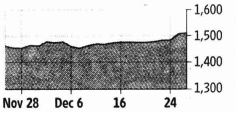


Dow Jones
28,645.26 (+190.17) ▲

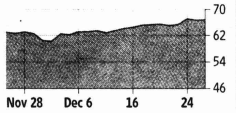


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1,511.62 (+32.34) ▲

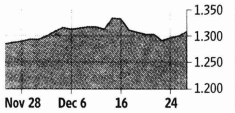


Brent crude (6pm)
$66.86 (+1.82) ▲

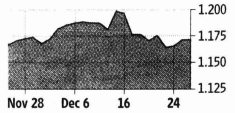


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.3091 (+0.0057) ▲



£/€
€1.1716 (-0.0039) ▼



City bankers show favour to clients on share ratings

Serious questions raised over conflict of interest

TIMES INVESTIGATION

Alex Ralph

Investment banks are treating their clients more favourably than other companies in equity research coverage, an investigation by *The Times* has found.

The study of the ratings given to listed companies by City brokers provides strong evidence of bias to customers. The findings suggest that reforms introduced by the European Union two years ago to reduce potential conflicts of interest are failing.

Under the Mifid II directive, investment banks and brokers had to begin charging asset managers separately for research and share trading, two services that in the past had been bundled together. The EU wanted to ensure that the cost of investment research was transparent and to improve the quality of analysis.

However, of the 16 brokers analysed by *The Times*, all but one were more likely to favour clients. The analysis ranged from the big Wall Street investment banks, such as JP Morgan, to smaller City firms, such as Numis.

For 15 of the firms, the percentage of clients given a "buy" rating was higher than for non-clients. The percentage of clients rated "sell" was lower than that of non-clients. The analysis showed that the apparent bias was stronger among smaller brokers, who rarely had "sell" ratings on clients.

Experts said that the analysis raised questions about the independence of the research and potential conflicts of interest within the firms.

John Kay, an economist who led a review in 2012 into whether equity markets operated in the best interests of business and the economy, said that investment banks, known as the "sell-side", "will never forget where the real money comes from. It's not [from] research". He added: "If in the end the sell-side research disappeared, I don't think one should shed any tears."

Lord Myners, the former City minister and ex-chairman of Autonomous Research, an independent research firm, said that the "FCA should certainly monitor this interesting work".

Steve Kelly, an adviser at Euro IRP, a trade association for independent researchers, said that "investment bank research remains skewed in favour of their investment banking clients" and noted that the "business model for an investment bank is inherently conflicted. Of course, banks would argue that they manage these conflicts and comply with regulatory requirements for Chinese walls. I wouldn't suggest at all they are breaching regulations or behaving unethically.

"However, the commercial realities are undeniable, and [the *Times*] data demonstrates what actually happens… This must impact on the independence and quality of the research."

The analysis found that for Goldman Sachs 47 per cent of its clients were rated a "buy", compared with 37 per cent of non-clients, and 13 per cent of its clients were rated "sell", compared with 18 per cent of non-clients.

At JP Morgan, 49 per cent of its clients were "buys", against 42 per cent of non-clients, and 11 per cent of its clients were rated "sell" compared with 17 per cent of non-clients.

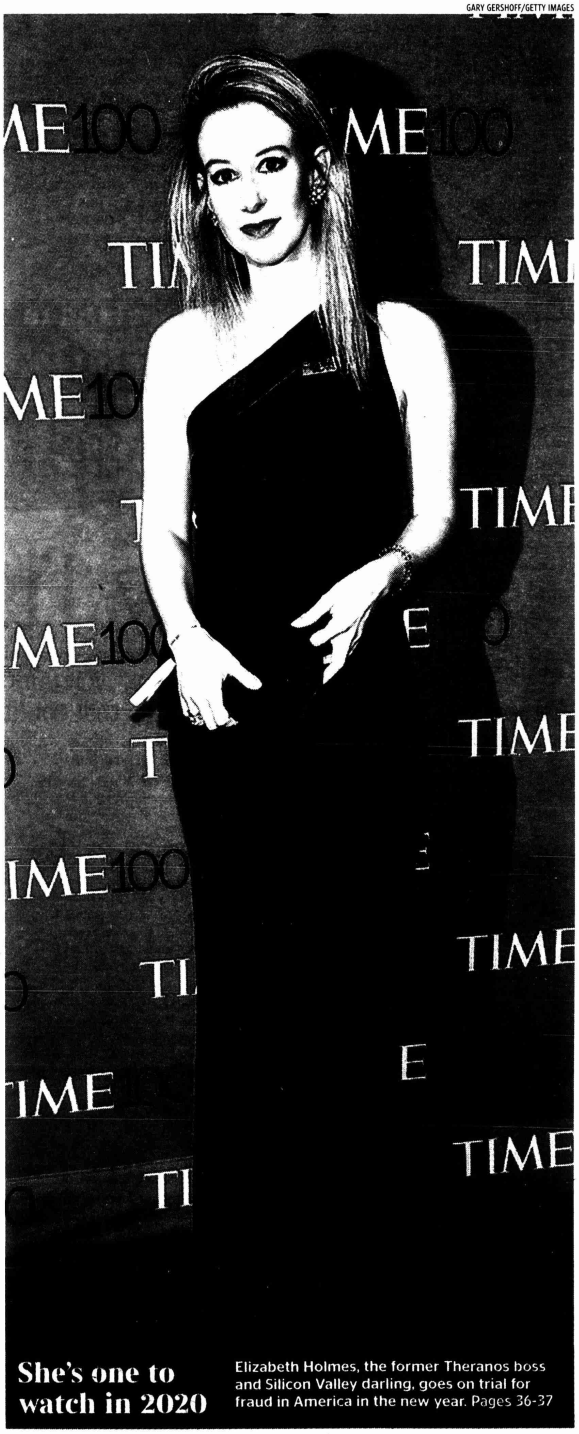
The analysis of Panmure Gordon found that 93 per cent of its clients were rated "buy" compared with 48 per cent of its non-clients. None of its clients was rated "sell". Berenberg and Goodbody also did not rate any clients a "sell".

The research was based on regulatory disclosures made by brokers at the bottom of their research notes, or on their websites, and on assuming that each covered a notional 1,000 companies (in those cases where an actual number was not disclosed). In some cases the actual number of "buys" on non-clients is more than on clients.

The firms were approached for comment and a spokeswoman for UK Finance, the industry body, said: "Mifid II changed the rules governing research and banks will be basing their policies on these new requirements."

Leading article, page 27

GARY GERSHOFF/GETTY IMAGES



She's one to watch in 2020

Elizabeth Holmes, the former Theranos boss and Silicon Valley darling, goes on trial for fraud in America in the new year. Pages 36-37

Honour for ex-RBS boss angers small businesses

James Hurley, Alex Ralph

The CBE awarded to the former boss of Royal Bank of Scotland in the new year's honour list has provoked a backlash from business owners and MPs.

Ross McEwan, who left RBS in October after six years, was recognised for services to the financial sector, but the honour has angered businesses that claim they were damaged by the bank.

The lender's Global Restructuring Group unit, which was supposed to support struggling companies, was found by the Financial Conduct Authority to have mistreated thousands of businesses and to have focused on extracting income from them. Many business owners accused it of wrecking their livelihoods.

Mr McEwan, 62, joined RBS before the misconduct, but the scandal emerged during his time at the top and he has been criticised for his handling of the fallout.

Kevin Hollinrake, the Conservative MP and chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on fair business banking, who has been campaigning for victims of banking scandals, said that it was "astounding that he is included in the honours list. I don't think anyone who has been involved in UK banking should be offered or accept an honour at least until a truly independent system of redress has been established to compensate victims."

Bill Esterson, the shadow business minister, said: "Thousands of small business owners and thousands more family members will be appalled at the idea that somebody who is so closely connected to a scandal that destroyed the livelihoods of small owners has been rewarded in this way."

Mr McEwan's honour also has been criticised on social media, with some business owners who claim that they were damaged by GRG calling it "sickening" and a "disgrace".

John Kidd, who claims that his care home business was damaged by RBS, said: "It's the establishment that employed him, it's them who have judged him and for them he has done a good job. For me, I can only see the gap between the establishment and myself growing."

Nick Gould, a former director of SME Alliance, a small business group, said on social media that the honour was "an appalling and absurd smack in the faces of tens of thousands of people whose lives and businesses were destroyed".

Roger Mullin, a former SNP MP, said that it was "grotesque" to honour Mr

Continued on page 38, col 3

Business

Need to know

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	28645.26 (+23.87)
Nasdaq Composite	9006.62 (-15.77)
S&P 500	3240.02 (+0.11)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	23837.72 (-87.20)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	28225.42 (+361.21)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	611.01 (+1.68)
Sydney	
AO	6936.30 (+29.90)
Frankfurt	
DAX	13337.11 (+36.13)
Singapore	
Straits	3226.53 (+3.54)
Brussels	
BEL20	3996.35 (+4.23)
Paris	
CAC-40	6037.39 (+7.84)
Zurich	
SMI Index	10730.15 (+5.81)
DJ EURO Stoxx 50	3782.27 (+7.88)
London	
FTSE 100	7644.90 (+12.66)
FTSE 250	22058.99 (+77.90)
FTSE 350	4303.15 (+8.54)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3181.43 (+4.80)
FTSE All-Shares	4247.59 (+8.31)
FTSE Non Financials	5052.66 (+9.59)
techMARK 100	5998.95 (+7.05)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.3093 (+0.0095)
Euro	1.1707 (+0.0002)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	79.84 (+0.17)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	108.50 Nov (2015 = 100)
RPI	291.00 Nov (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	291.50 Nov (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	606.78 (+5.35)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4108.82 (+22.40)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	69.28	+0.11
BFOE(Feb)	68.20	+0.24
BFOE(Mar)	66.98	+0.11
WTI(Feb)	61.72	+0.04
WTI(Mar)	61.53	+0.05

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	634.00	634.00
Gasoil EEC	621.50	623.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	243.50	254.50
Naphtha	558.00	561.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jan	623.25-623.00	Apr	615.00-614.75
Feb	622.75-622.25	May	610.50-610.25
Mar	619.75-619.25		Volume: 541698

Brent (9.00pm)

Feb	68.16-68.14	May	65.49-65.47
Mar	66.85-66.83	Jun	64.89-64.87
Apr	66.12-66.10		Volume: 1564128

LIFFE

Cocoa

Mar	1822-1821	May	unq
May	1780-1771	Jul	unq
Jul	1764-1725	Sep	unq
Sep	1750-1740		
Dec	1696-1685		
Mar	unq		Volume: 87045

RobustaCoffee

Jan	1375-1300	Sep	1428-1408
Mar	1385-1383	Nov	1588-1425
May	1403-1401		
Jul	1430-1400		Volume: 12246

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	373.00-369.80
		Dec	375.30-372.10
Mar	361.10-360.60	Mar	unq
May	366.00-363.80	May	unq
Aug	370.00-368.40		Volume: 48245

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jan	147.00	Mar	unq	May	150.50
Jul	unq	Nov	162.00	Volume: 598	

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 0.75 ECB Refi 0.00 US Fed Fd 1.50-1.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 4.24

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 0.660; 3 mth 0.739. Sell: 1 mth 0.480; 3 mth 0.701

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	0.7069	0.7588	0.7976	0.8823	0.9793
Clearer CDs	0.80-0.70	0.84-0.74	0.88-0.78	0.97-0.82	1.04-0.89
Depo CDs	0.80-0.70	0.84-0.74	0.88-0.78	0.97-0.82	1.04-0.89
Eurodollar Deps	1.71-1.91	1.76-1.96	1.86-2.06	1.83-2.03	1.83-2.04

Dollar rates

Australia	1.4332-1.4334
Canada	1.3071-1.3073
Denmark	6.6780-6.6791
Euro	0.8943-0.8944
Hong Kong	7.7878-7.7883
Japan	109.48-109.48
Malaysia	4.1250-4.1300
Norway	8.8257-8.8292
Singapore	1.3518-1.3520
Sweden	9.3336-9.3377
Switzerland	0.9733-0.9733

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	78.289-78.302
Australia dollar	1.8761-1.8763
Bahrain dinar	0.4900-0.4971
Brazil real	5.2960-5.3091
Euro	1.1704-1.1710
Hong Kong dollar	10.194-10.195
India rupee	93.590-93.598
Indonesia rupiah	18132-18144
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3960-0.3984
Malaysia ringgit	5.3999-5.4065
New Zealand dollar	1.9526-1.9530
Singapore dollar	1.7694-1.7698
S Africa rand	18.362-18.375
U A E dirham	4.8078-4.8081

Exchange rates

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.040	1.780
Canada $	1.860	1.610
Denmark Kr	9.380	8.230
Egypt	n/a	n/a
Euro €	1.280	1.120
Hong Kong $	10.840	9.530
Hungary	426.070	350.540
Indonesia	20813.800	16602.200
Israel Shk	4.940	4.220
Japan Yen	153.340	132.800
New Zealand $	2.190	1.850
Norway Kr	12.590	10.880
Poland	5.500	4.500
Russia	86.680	72.180
S Africa Rd	20.380	17.260
Sweden Kr	13.040	11.600
Switzerland Fr	1.400	1.200
Turkey Lira	8.650	7.400
USA $	1.410	1.240

Rates for banknotes and traveller's cheques as traded by Royal Bank of Scotland plc yesterday

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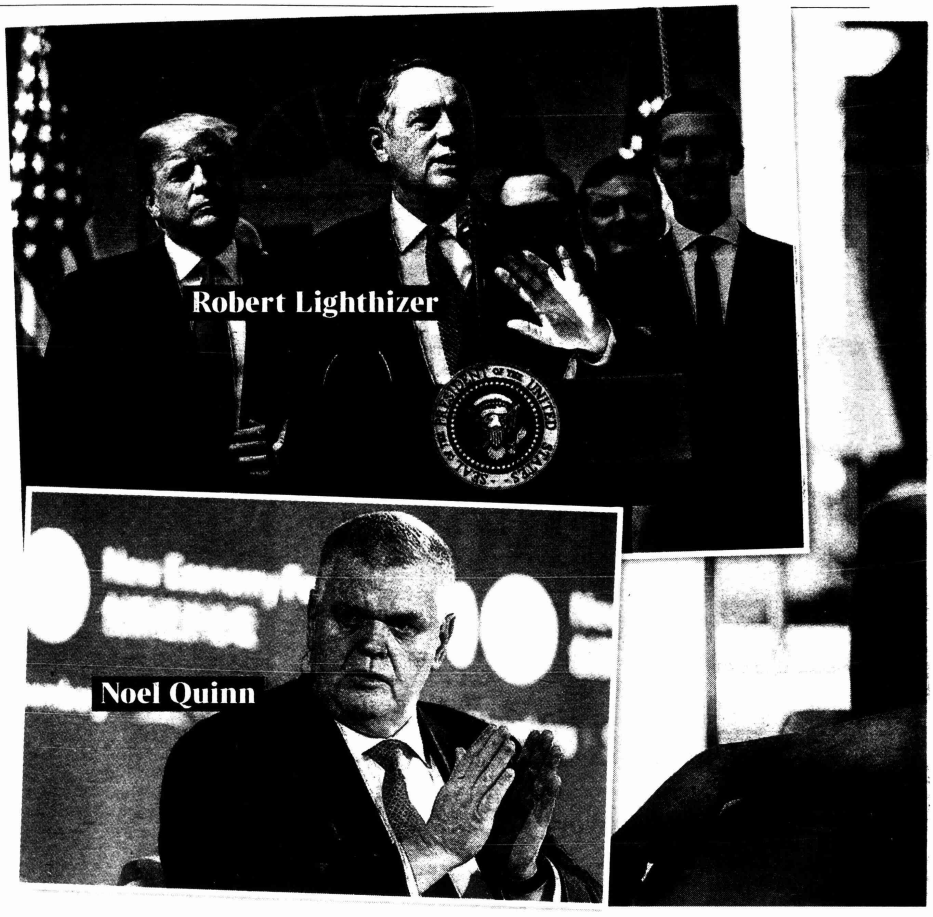


Key figures who will

Times writers pick out Ones to Watch as we enter a new decade that could herald dramatic change

DAME SHARON WHITE
CHAIRWOMAN OF JOHN LEWIS

Having shown a willingness to roll up her sleeves for a corporate dust-up, Dame Sharon White is steeling herself to take on one of the biggest jobs in British retail (Miles Costello writes). After nearly five years as chief executive of Ofcom — notably taking on BT over governance at Openreach, its networks operator, and winning — Dame Sharon, 52, is to chair the John Lewis Partnership.

The former civil servant joins the company, which also owns Waitrose, next month and will have replaced Sir Charlie Mayfield, 53, by February. Seen as a surprise arrival because of her lack of experience in retail, she becomes only the sixth person to hold the role. It is also the first time that the partnership has chosen an external candidate to take on its most senior position.

Dame Sharon is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants and went from a comprehensive school in Leyton, east London, to Cambridge. She is an economist known for her intellect and low-key demeanour and had been seen as a credible contender to be the next governor of the Bank of England. Indeed, her background includes stints at the Treasury, the World Bank and the British embassy in Washington, where she met her husband Robert Chote, 51, who is chairman of the Office of Budget Responsibility. She also spent time in the policy unit at 10 Downing Street under Tony Blair.

John Lewis is contending with the biggest trading crisis on the high street in a generation. In its most recent results, for the six months to July 27, the group made a loss before tax and other items of £25.8 million on a 1.2 per cent fall in sales to just over £5.4 billion. Within that, operating profits at Waitrose improved, but losses at John Lewis stores accelerated.

BERNARD LOONEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BP

It's all change at BP as Bob Dudley, the American oilman who has led the company for almost a decade, steps down as chief executive in February (Emily Gosden writes). His successor is Bernard Looney, a dapper, down-with-the-kids Irishman whose interests include fashion and tractors — a legacy of his upbringing on a dairy farm.

The 49-year-old may look and sound rather different from his 64-year-old predecessor, but all eyes are on what he will do differently. Mr Looney has been appointed with the task of charting BP's course through energy transition. Despite almost two decades passing since its Beyond Petroleum rebrand, the company has barely strayed from its core oil and gas business, which delivered profits of $10 billion last year. Its annual investment in green energies stands at only about $500 million out of total capital expenditure of $16 billion.

The strategy has delivered healthy dividends, but it leaves BP in a precarious position, accused of dragging its feet amid growing calls across society for action on climate change. Indeed, BP's name is so toxic in some quarters that it can no longer give its money away: the Royal Shakespeare Company is dropping it as a sponsor. Meanwhile, dividend-hungry investors want BP to keep generating big profits. Some, especially in America, remain concerned about ploughing too much cash into green energy ventures that have delivered far lower returns.

Colleagues say that Mr Looney will "lean into" the energy transition, but what will that entail? Expect the first clues within months in a promised update on BP's low-carbon ambitions, followed in the summer by a strategy charting its course to 2025.

ROBERT LIGHTHIZER
US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

It is a question with an answer that isn't as obvious, or at least as high-profile, as it may seem (Callum Jones writes). Who is responsible for dragging China to the negotiating table, pushing the World Trade Organisation to the brink and hammering out America's new economic framework with Canada and Mexico? President Trump so often gets the credit, but it is Robert Lighthizer who has turned the international rules-based order on its head over the past two years.

He isn't done yet. While Mr Trump has promised Britain a "massive new

ROSIE HALLAM/EYEVINE; PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP; HOU YU, JASON ALDEN/GETTY IMAGES

shape the business world in 2020

trade deal" after Brexit, it will be Mr Lighthizer who takes the lead when talks begin in a few weeks' time. He is a supporter of protectionism and has long criticised the "utopian dreams" of those advocating free trade. Indeed, his officials are poised to prise open a new front in their trade wars in the new year, heading out to bat for Silicon Valley by hitting French exports worth $2.4 billion with tariffs in response to the country's new digital services tax.

Mr Lighthizer, 72, a steel industry lawyer, is now at the helm of one of the world's most robust trade negotiating operations. Supporters believe that he's on a roll entering 2020, as USMCA, his updated agreement with Mexico and Canada, makes its way through Congress.

Whitehall has long made clear that it will turn to the United States for one its first prized trade deals outside the European Union. "For sure, the UK is a priority," Mr Lighthizer said this month. "As soon as they get their objectives agreed to, we'll start talking."

ELIZABETH HOLMES
FOUNDER OF THERANOS

Five years ago Elizabeth Holmes, 35, was a Silicon Valley starlet, not to mention the world's youngest and wealthiest self-made woman, with a fortune estimated at $4.5 billion (James Dean writes). She was running Theranos, the $9 billion blood-testing start-up she had founded, and claimed to be revolutionising the industry with Edison, a system said to produce more accurate results, and more quickly, using no more than a pin-prick of blood. One magazine went so far as to tout her as "the next Steve Jobs".

By the end of next year, though, Ms Holmes could be in prison. Prosecutors have brought 11 fraud charges against her over allegations that she and Ramesh Balwani, 54, her former husband and No 2 at Theranos, defrauded investors, doctors and patients by making false claims about the brilliance of Edison and the strength of the company's finances. Edison, it turned out, could not perform a full range of blood tests and often gave inaccurate results. As such, it was used in only a fraction of the tests that Theranos conducted, with most carried out on standard laboratory equipment. Ms Holmes claimed that Theranos expected to make $1 billion in revenue in 2015, knowing that it would actually make next to nothing, prosecutors say. Theranos ceased to exist in September last year and investors lost all of the nearly $1 billion they put into the company.

The criminal trial of Ms Holmes and Mr Balwani, who have both pleaded not guilty, is scheduled to begin in August and should last for about three months. It will captivate Silicon Valley.

JOHN PLANT
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ARCONIC

In his first report as chairman of the Grenfell Tower inquiry, Sir Martin Moore-Bick gave a "principal reason" for the rapid spread of the fire that killed 72 people in June 2017 (James Dean writes). It was, he said, the presence of cladding panels on the outside of the building, "which melted and acted as a source of fuel for the growing fire".

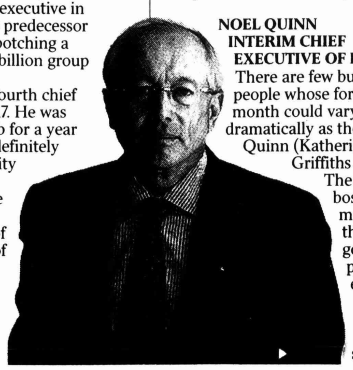
During phase one of the inquiry, Sir Martin rejected claims from Arconic's lawyers that there was insufficient evidence to conclude what had caused the fire to spread. Arconic's lawyers have separately cited an obscure French law as a reason for not releasing documents to a US court, raising concerns that they could do the same with documents needed for the British inquiry. To the end of September Arconic had spent $38 million on lawyers' fees and other advisory costs related to Grenfell Tower, company filings show.

Those panels were made by Arconic, an American group run by John Plant, below, a Briton. Mr Plant, 66, chairman since 2016, was appointed as chief executive in February when his predecessor was dismissed for botching a deal to sell the $14 billion group to private equity.

Mr Plant is the fourth chief executive since 2017. He was meant to do the job for a year but will stay on indefinitely "to ensure continuity and performance". This means that he will lead Arconic through the start of the second phase of the Grenfell inquiry, which is expected to begin next month and will focus on the decisions that led to the cladding system being installed on the tower.

Mr Plant is an accountant who has spent 40 years in the transport industry. He is splitting Arconic into two parts; one that makes sheet aluminium for carmakers and the other components for the aviation industry. He could sell the building products business that makes cladding panels.

As he navigates these challenges, he will need to maintain good relations with Elliott Management, the hedge fund that is Arconic's largest shareholder. It was behind Mr Plant's appointment as chairman, but Paul Singer, Elliott's founder, has no qualms about ejecting underperforming executives. The rewards could make it all worthwhile for Mr Plant, though; his predecessor was paid $17.7 million last year.



NOEL QUINN
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HSBC

There are few business people whose fortunes next month could vary as dramatically as those of Noel Quinn (Katherine Griffiths writes). The interim boss of HSBC may be told that he has got the job permanently — or he may be sidelined for someone else, in which case he is likely to move on after 32 years at the bank.

Mr Quinn, a well-liked banker who had been running HSBC's commercial lending business, was plucked to run the sprawling company in August when John Flint was dismissed as its chief executive by Mark Tucker, the chairman. At the time few saw Mr Quinn as anything but a placeholder until Mr Tucker had searched the world a candidate with the drive and ambition he felt Mr Flint lacked to kick-start growth at the international lender. Yet as time has gone on, Mr Quinn has made a favourable mark, both internally and externally.

Mr Quinn, 57, has pledged to unveil a restructuring plan in February alongside HSBC's annual results. Thousands of job cuts are expected, plus a possible sale of HSBC's French retail bank (if HSBC can achieve a decent price) alongside a plan to shrink in continental Europe and to cut the bank's American business while still trying to maintain a presence in what Mr Quinn sees as a crucial market. Mr Quinn has a long perspective and believes that bureaucracy at the bank has got worse. Cuts among middle and senior managers are expected.

There is a view in the City that Mr Quinn would not have been allowed to set the stage for a far-reaching shake-up if he was not going to be confirmed in the top job. But nothing is certain until Mr Tucker makes it official and he is known to take bold decisions. Mr Quinn will hope that he has convinced Mr Tucker. He won't have long to wait to find out.

Hedge fund bets on bleak future for publisher whose shares soared

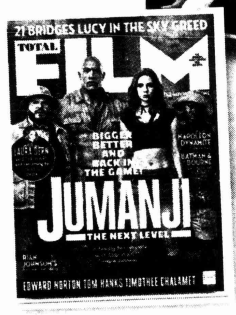
Simon Duke

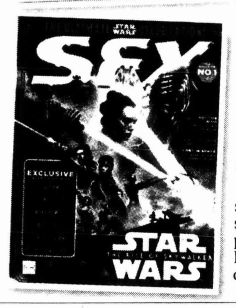
An American hedge fund that blocked a rescue deal for Interserve, the giant outsourcer, has taken a £17 million short position in Future, the fast-growing magazine and website owner. Coltrane Asset Management is betting that the publisher's share price is heading for a fall.

Future, which is based in Bath and owns print titles and websites such as *PC Gamer* and *Total Film*, has been the strongest performer on the stock market this year. Since the start of January its market value has trebled to £1.45 billion. However, its shares have drifted lower since November 27, when a clutch of senior managers sold stock worth £44 million. On the same day the hedge fund, which is based in New York, disclosed that it had taken a sizeable wager against Future. Coltrane has since expanded its short position from 0.67 per cent to 1.2 per cent of the company's outstanding shares.

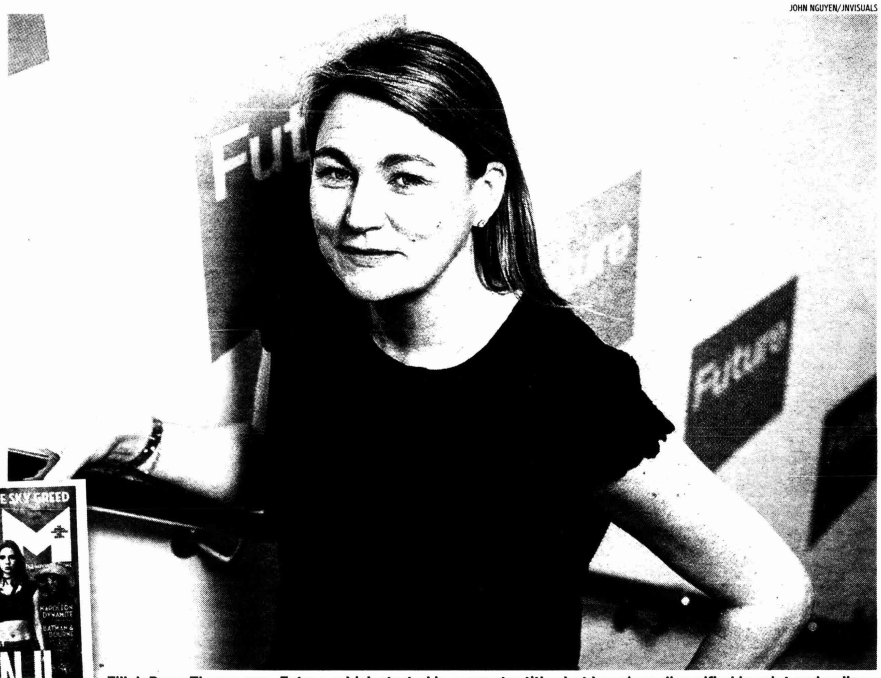
Future was founded 1985 by Chris Anderson, who subsequently popularised the TED talks series. Its first title was *Amstrad Action* and it became known for its computer publications. It was floated on the stock market in 1999.

Zillah Byng-Thorne, 45, has overseen a succession of ever larger acquisitions since becoming chief executive in 2014. Future's portfolio now ranges from *Practical Caravan* and *Metal Hammer* to United States-based technology websites such as *Tom's Guide* and *Top Ten Reviews*. In November it agreed a £140 million acquisition of 41 consumer titles including *Country Life*, *Horse & Hound* and *Woman's Weekly*. The deal is expected to be completed in the spring.





JOHN NGUYEN/INVISUALS



Zillah Byng-Thorne runs Future, which started in computer titles but has since diversified in print and online

Future's revenues and profits have risen sharply thanks to the takeovers and the company has become a darling of the stock market. Under Ms Byng-Thorne, its share price has risen more than tenfold.

In late November a share-based bonus scheme for senior staff paid out in full, prompting Ms Byng-Thorne and other staff to sell more shares than required to settle tax bills. She received more than 1.2 million shares and sold 1.05 million at £14 each, raising £14.7 million. Having hit a peak of £15.72 days before the disposals, Future's shares have fallen to £14.76. It is unclear whether Coltrane's short position is in the money.

Short-selling is a tactic used by investors to bet on a fall in a company's stock price. A speculator will buy shares from an investment or pension fund and sell them on the market, hoping to buy them back more cheaply at a later date.

Coltrane is run by Mandeep Manku, a former trader at Deutsche Bank, and it has become increasingly active in Britain over recent years. It pushed Interserve into a pre-pack administration in March by blocking a rescue deal that would have wiped out shareholders. Coltrane is said to have made a profit of £4 million betting on the demise of Carillion and has a stake in Capita, both of them also in the outsourcing sector.

Its other short positions include Asos, the online fashion retailer, and Aston Martin Lagonda, the luxury carmaker. In July Coltrane disclosed that it had built a 3.3 per cent stake in Sports Direct through derivatives.

Some analysts believe that Future's valuation is unjustifiable, leaving it vulnerable to short-selling. It is valued at more than 30 times projected earnings. Stockviews, an independent researcher, said that it was difficult to work out the true rate of organic growth because of the large number of recent takeovers.

Shop staff bear brunt of crisis on high street

Arthi Nachiappan

The growing pressure on bricks-and-mortar retailers has caused the biggest loss of jobs on the high street in 25 years, research suggests.

In total 143,128 retail jobs were cut this year and about 16,000 shops were shut permanently, according to the Centre for Retail Research. Job losses were a fifth higher than last year.

About 27 per cent of those who lost their jobs did so because their employer went into administration. Just over 18 per cent involved company voluntary arrangements, which allow companies to close stores and cut rents without going into administration.

Trouble on the high street has led big chains, including Carpetright and Mothercare, to close some stores and shed jobs. However, smaller retailers lost fewer staff this year. Redundancies at small independent shops fell by 22 per cent from 55,030 in 2018 to 42,985. Small shops have benefited from business rates relief that came into force in April, cutting business rates by almost a third for high street businesses in England with a rateable value below £51,000. The discount is set to increase to about 50 per cent next year.

This year large retailers closed 5,901 shops, up by 79 per cent on the 3,303 sites closed in the previous year. Closures among independent retailers fell by 10 per cent, with 10,172 stores shuttered in the calendar year.

Joshua Bamfield, of the Centre for Retail Research, said that profits would continue to be undercut by "higher labour costs, business rates and relatively weak demand", forcing the weakest companies to close shops or enter administration. "The high street and suburbs will continue to decline," Professor Bamfield said.

In the past decade 289,000 high street jobs were lost, according to statistics published by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. These are mainly made up of roles such as retail cashiers, bank and post office clerks and sales assistants. Women have been hit particularly hard by changes on the high street, accounting for 81 per cent of the job losses.

'Scrap rail season tickets that penalise part-time workers'

Callum Jones

Train companies have been urged to scrap season tickets because they exacerbate skills shortages by imposing a "part-time penalty" on commuters.

The British Chambers of Commerce said that rigid pricing must be overhauled to ensure that people working flexible hours were no longer "penalised unfairly".

It believes that a move towards pro-rata rates could save passengers thousands of pounds a year. On Thursday rail companies will raise prices by an average of 2.7 per cent, pushing up the prices of some season tickets by more than £100.

The Williams Rail Review, which had been due to report in the autumn, has yet to materialise. Keith Williams, 59, the former British Airways boss that is leading the review, said recently that the government would have to "step back from the railway" if services were to improve.

Claire Walker, co-executive director of the BCC, said that the "rusty ticketing policy" must be changed to create "a diverse, inclusive and productive workforce", and she added: "We need a fairer and more adaptable pricing system so that people who don't work the old-fashioned nine-to-five routine aren't penalised unfairly."

Paul Plummer, chief executive of the Rail Delivery Group, which represents train operators and Network Rail, said that it wanted "to update fares regulations so that commuters everywhere can benefit from tap-in, tap-out technology and price caps".

A transport department spokesman said that reforms from the Williams Review "would simplify fares to create a simpler, more effective system".

Anger at RBS chief's honour

Continued from page 35

McEwan given his failure to "reform the culture of RBS". The New Zealander was paid £3.6 million last year and stepped down in October to become chief executive of National Australia Bank. He was credited with returning RBS to profit, cutting the government ownership from 78 per cent to 62 per cent after its taxpayer bailout during the financial crisis. Sir Howard Davies, chairman of RBS, said that his award was "well deserved".

Independent honours committees consider nominations for awards, which are sent to a main honours committee and are approved by the Queen. The chairman of the economy committee is Sir Ian Cheshire, chairman of Barclays Bank UK, and other members include Sir Douglas Flint, former chairman of HSBC. The Cabinet Office, which co-ordinates the honours system, declined to comment.

Apple skips beat as doctor sues over its smart watch

Arthi Nachiappan

A doctor from New York has sued Apple over the heartbeat monitoring technology used in its smart watch, claiming that the giant technology company has infringed his patent for a method of detecting irregular heartbeats.

Joseph Wiesel, a cardiologist based in Queen's who also teaches at New York University's School of Medicine, filed his suit on Friday in a federal court in Brooklyn. He has called upon the court to require the California-based company to pay him royalties for future use of his patented method, has alleged that the infringement was "wilful" and has demanded damages.

Apple, which was founded in 1976 and is the world's most valuable technology company, has included a range of health and fitness features on its smart watch. It has marketed the device as an aid to "inspiring a healthier life". The device detects if a user falls over and the heart rate notification feature alerts a user if it detects an irregular rhythm.

Dr Wiesel said that his invention had made "pioneering steps" in atrial fibrillation detection by monitoring "irregular pulse rhythms from a succession of time intervals". He first contacted the company in September 2017 to alert it to his patent and filed his claim after Apple "refused to negotiate in good faith", according to the lawsuit.

The cardiologist said that Apple's marketing of the watch's irregular heartbeat notifications had made his patent a "critical" part of generating consumer demand for the smart watch.

Apple sold 6.8 million smart watches globally in the third quarter of 2019, according to Strategy Analytics, a corporate researcher.

Mark Littlewood

Ignore the doomsayers and their negativity. There has never been a better time to be alive

Whatever the goodwill and cheer we have enjoyed over the festive period, the British seem to have embraced some sort of traumatised pessimism as part of our national psyche. Perhaps we are all worn down and scarred by the Brexit bickering. Maybe we are not persuaded by the prime minister's post-election pledge to begin the national healing. In a rather sanguine, shrug-the-shoulders sort of way, most of us seem to expect things to get worse in the years ahead.

Even prior to the divisive referendum of 2016, we felt glum about the future. Out of 17 countries then surveyed by YouGov, Britain was in the least optimistic third. Nearly two thirds of us felt that, all things considered, the world was getting worse. Fewer than one in twenty felt it was getting better.

The astonishing feature of our overbearing sense of gloom is that it is totally detached from measurable economic factors in the real world. We should be in celebratory mood, bursting with optimism and hope. Instead, we are the equivalent of fans of a football team on a wonderful run of form who seem permanently convinced that the next match will result in crushing defeat.

Of course, the doomsayers will say that past results are no guarantee of future performance. They are technically correct in that assertion, of course, but the past does surely act as a reasonable guide and it is worth us being aware of just how fantastic the recent performance of humanity has been.

The size of the world economy grew by over a third in the past decade and now stands at more than $86 trillion. If anything, this upward trend is showing signs of accelerating. World GDP can reasonably be expected to surpass $100 trillion before the next decade is out.

The benefits of global economic growth have been felt particularly by those on the most pitifully low incomes. On average, over the past ten years, more than 150,000 human beings have escaped absolute poverty (defined as living on $1.90 per day or less) every single day. At the start of the millennium, nearly a third of the global population was below this poverty line; that figure now stands at about 8 per cent. This is progress without any parallel in history and there is every reason to believe that extreme poverty could be eliminated altogether within a generation.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

Optimists say the next decade could be a new version of the Roaring Twenties

But we aren't merely getting richer, we are living longer to enjoy the benefits of our enhanced material wealth. When I was born in 1972, average life expectancy across the planet was a little under 60 years. It now stands at over 72 years. For every single day that passes, average life expectancy is increasing by about eight hours. Infant mortality rates are also tumbling. By the end of the 2020s, we can expect the number to be about 20 per 1,000 births. That compares with nearly 65 per 1,000 births as recently as 1990.

Some of those seeking to spread a bit of optimism are suggesting that the next decade could be a new version of the Roaring Twenties, yet even this relatively upbeat language seems to place too much nostalgic value on how things were a century ago. The 1920s were not simply a different decade, they were almost a different universe. More than 80 per cent of the world's population then lived in absolute poverty. More than two thirds of adults were illiterate (compared with about one in seven today). A third of children died before their fifth birthday; today, it's under 4 per cent. Average incomes, adjusted for inflation, were about a tenth of their present levels.

Even in relatively prosperous Britain, the transformation has been truly remarkable over the course of a century. Obviously, the science and technology that we take for granted today — computers, smartphones, the internet — could not have been imagined. In 1920, there was no treatment for diabetes. There were no vaccines for hepatitis, chickenpox or meningitis. Tuberculosis, pneumonia, diphtheria and whooping cough were all leading causes of death in the Britain. Penicillin was discovered only towards the end of the decade. Flu jabs were a generation away.

Real average incomes in the UK are now more than five times higher than they were in 1920. Back then, you would expect to die in your mid to late fifties; now you can reasonably expect to live long into your eighties or beyond.

If you are upbeat enough to believe that the 2020s are going to be the best thing since sliced bread, you will still be understating things. It is going to be far better than that (and incidentally, sliced bread made it on to the shelves of UK shops only in 1928).

None of this means that there are not real problems to face in the decade ahead. If the spread of free market capitalism and global trade stalls, then so might our economic progress. There are obviously no absolute guarantees that human flourishing will continue to spread at such astounding rates. As Steven Pinker, the Harvard psychologist, points outs: "It's essential to realise that progress does not mean that everything gets better for everyone, everywhere, all the time. That would be a miracle, that wouldn't be progress."

However, any remotely objective analysis of the world around us should lead to almost unbounded optimism as to what the next decade could bring. For the vast majority of people on Earth, we will continue to live longer, become measurably richer and face less disease and illness than at any time in human history.

Our new year's resolution should be to shed our grinding pessimism that progress will end. The 2020s are going to be the best ever time to be alive. The UK is going to be one of the best possible places to enjoy them. It would be an even better country if we started to think rationally about the wonderful new opportunities, technological breakthroughs and increased wealth that will come, rather than talking ourselves into a state of misery and fearing the worst.

Mark Littlewood is director-general of the Institute of Economic Affairs. Twitter: @MarkJLittlewood

Digital bank looks to its investors for more cash

Alex Ralph

Monzo is looking to raise up to £100 million to support its growth.

The digital bank is in talks with investors to extend a funding round that was launched in June, when it received £113 million and doubled its valuation to more than £2 billion.

It is understood to be in talks with investors who participated in June's series F round, as well as potential new backers, with a view to raising a further £50 million to £100 million.

Monzo was founded in 2015 and is among several digital banks seeking to disrupt the industry by luring customers from the familiar high street players. It has become known for its coral-coloured debit cards and mobile app allowing users to hold savings in different pots.

It is not clear yet what valuation its latest fundraising, which was first reported in *The Mail on Sunday*, will ascribe to Monzo. Its previous fundraising in the summer was led by Y Combinator Continuity, an American start-up accelerator. Existing investors also include Accel, Stripe and Orange Digital Ventures. It is thought that the company is considering a new "series G" funding round next year.

Monzo has raised about £310 million since it was created by Tom Blomfield, 34, an entrepreneur and former employee of Starling, a rival. It gained its British banking licence in 2017.

Total customer deposits rose to £461.8 million from £71.3 million in the year to February and customer numbers almost trebled to 1.6 million. That helped to increase net revenue to £9.2 million from £1.8 million, but its losses deepened to £50.7 million from £33.1 million as it more than doubled its workforce to more than 700 people.

Customer numbers have increased to 3.6 million since the annual results and they are on track to jump to six million next year. In June Mr Blomfield said that losses were likely to rise further this year as the bank invested in advertising to boost its growth. He told the *Financial Times* that Monzo was "pretty comfortable we're well capitalised for the next few years."

He said then that "we can choose to do less stuff, expand less internationally and hire fewer people. Those actions would adjust the trajectory towards higher profitability much faster, but I think it would damage the long-term value of the company."

Monzo declined to comment on the fundraising reports.

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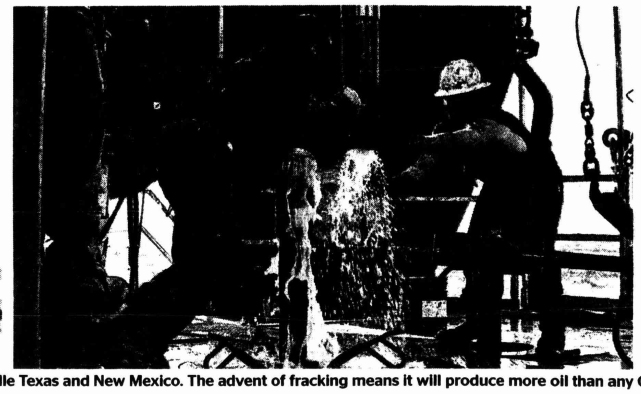

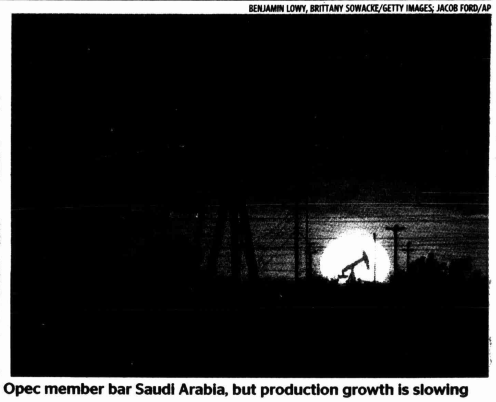

The oil and gasfields of the Permian Basin straddle Texas and New Mexico. The advent of fracking means it will produce more oil than any Opec member bar Saudi Arabia, but production growth is slowing

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Era of making a quick buck from shale is at a close

James Dean US Business Editor

The world's most promising oilfield is in a slump. In the Permian Basin in the United States, jobs are disappearing, home prices are falling and there are fewer drilling rigs dotting the desert plains. An edict from Wall Street telling oil companies to cut spending and to increase their profits has taken its toll. Drilling and fracking is on the wane. Production continues to grow, but at a slower pace.

"The long-term prospects of the Permian remain robust," Rene Santos, an analyst at S&P Global Platts, a consultancy, said. "Operators just need to stay away from past practices of production growth at any cost, without close consideration of shareholder returns." Oil companies, he said, needed to return cash to shareholders and to push up their share prices before growth can return to its previous highs.

The Permian Basin, an oil and gasfield that straddles Texas and New Mexico, was thought to have run dry until hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, became a viable means of extraction. There are now an estimated 75 billion barrels of recoverable shale oil in the region, but fewer than five billion had been produced by the end of 2018. The Permian is forecast to produce more oil by 2023 than any member of Opec, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Saudi Arabia excepted.

Artem Abramov, head of shale research at Rystad Energy, a consultancy, said that the basin remained an "infinite low-cost source of supply" that would continue to grow, although "the age of easy productivity gains is over" and the pace of production growth "will gradually decelerate in 2020 and 2021".

Mr Abramov said that a "significant boost" in investment by oil companies was needed to prevent the region's rapid growth stalling further, but added that this was unlikely to emerge. "The current market sentiment and overall new shale business model — disciplined spending and free cashflow generation — are two factors preventing increase in spend," he said.

Dan Brouillette, the US energy secretary, said that the Permian slowdown was likely to be temporary and that the golden age of American shale was far from over. Yet he warned that some producers could fail as the market decelerates.

"Maybe there are some folks who, for whatever reason, thought they could make some quick money in this and they are learning that production is not as easy as you might think," he said in an interview with Bloomberg. "You may see some of them go by the wayside."

Drilling and fracking are expensive processes that quickly suck away capital. Oil companies have been forced to rein in these operations because shareholders want to see more profits from increased production.

The number of fracking crews working in the Permian fell from about 250 at the start of the year to 200 at the beginning of December, figures from Primary Vision, a consultancy, suggest. Drilling activity has been on a downward trend all year: there were 408 active rigs last month, down by ten from October and 82 from November last year, a government tally shows.

The decline in drilling and fracking has had a direct impact on the Permian's employment and housing markets. In the first ten months of 2018, employment in the region jumped by 16,700 jobs. In the same period this year, it fell by 400, figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show. Meanwhile, the median home price in the Permian fell to $301,045 in October this year from a peak of $309,094 in August, figures from the Dallas Federal Reserve show.

Permian oil production is expected to grow in January but at its slowest rate since July this year, according to a forecast by the US Energy Information Administration. It estimated that production in the region would climb by 48,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day from December, to 4.74 million boe/d.

The Greater Houston Partnership, a civic group, predicts that 4,000 oilfield jobs will be lost in the city by the end of next year. It said that the situation facing Houston, the corporate and financial capital of Texan oil, was "eerily similar" to the bust of the 1980s.

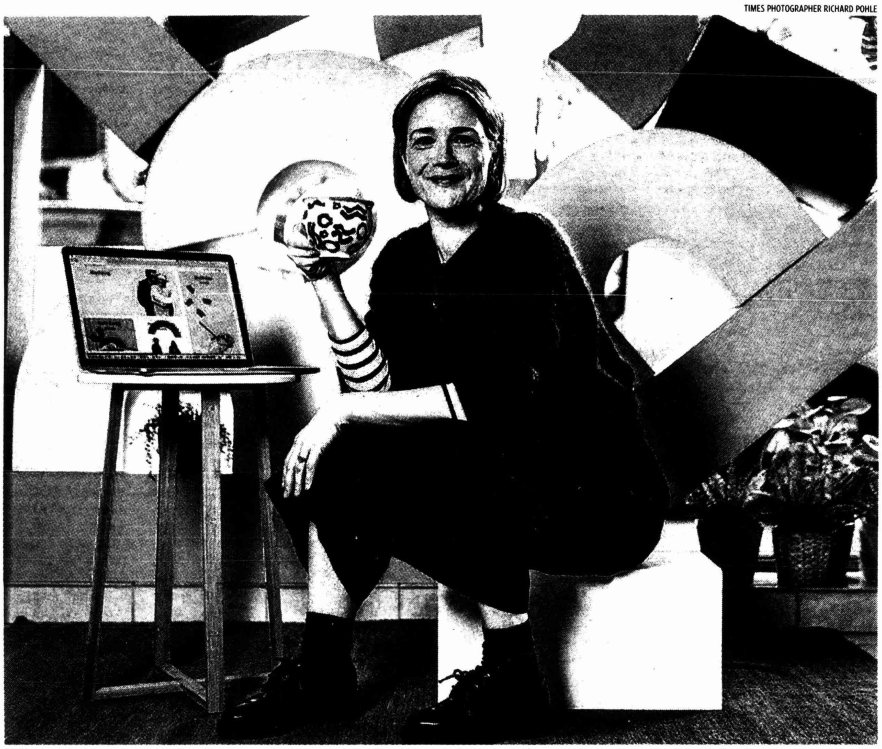
Israel Campos, co-owner of Pody's BBQ, a restaurant in the heart of the Permian, said that business had been "tight" towards the end of the year, but he was "looking for a brighter 2020".

Israel Campos, centre, says that business has slowed at his restaurant

For any business with an eye on the bigger picture, it pays to plan ahead

An annual review to lay groundwork can help entrepreneurs avoid nasty surprises, **James Hurley** writes

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Olivia Knight, above, Richard Beston, below, and Tania Boler, right, are all keen advocates of setting development goals

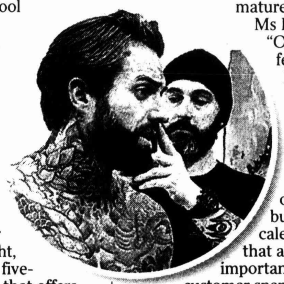
Richard "Bez" Beston used to be a man without a plan. The self-taught engineer has built a promising manufacturing business to complement his high street tattoo studio in Sunderland, but admits to a tendency towards "winging it".

"I see something in my head and I do it," is how he explains his approach. "I have been very gung-ho about the whole development side of things and I tended to do little or no planning at all. I really underestimated how quickly we might grow."

Indeed, Ego Ink has had to move offices three times in the past year after being caught out by the pace of expansion, with its tattoo machines, first manufactured in a tiny workshop above Mr Beston's studio, attracting orders from artists as far afield as China, Russia and India thanks to a clever design that produces fewer vibrations than traditional alternatives.

With sales for his company doubling in 2019 compared with 2018 and further international expansion on the cards for 2020, the entrepreneur has become a convert to the value of an annual exercise that sets the tone for the year ahead. Now Mr Beston, 47, sets production milestones and design deadlines before work on a new machine commences.

Yet he still likes to keep things simple. "There's lots of cool software we use to track what's going on, but you can't beat pen and paper for getting stuff out of your brain and into action."



Finding it hard to make time to think strategically about an expanding business is not unusual among entrepreneurs who prefer to be getting their hands dirty. Olivia Knight, founder of Patchwork, a five-year-old online business that offers a way to organise crowdsourcing of cash, time or skills for a gift or big event, says that her annual planning exercise was supposed to be finished in November. In fact, it has only just begun. The reason? "With a small team, it's always a balancing act — responding to the urgent stuff and making time to plan."

The good news is that planning gets easier as a business matures, according to Ms Knight, 41. "Once you're a few years in, you have a really good sense of the natural rhythm of things. This might be about the seasonality of your business, the calendar moments that are most important to you, customer spending patterns or behaviour. That's harder when you've just started out. I think in our first 12 months, we were just firefighting. Trying, failing, learning and trying again."

Tania Boler endured a lesson in the importance of laying solid groundwork last year. Elvie, her company, provides female healthcare products and services, including a breast pump that sold out within 24 hours of its launch in 2018.

"We were taken a bit by surprise so struggled to keep up with demand which was frustrating," Ms Boler says. "In 2020, we're making sure we don't have the same inventory problems by planning earlier and supporting our manufacturing partners to scale."

With the pump due to be launched in additional overseas markets, an office in the United States to bed in and a new engineering facility opening in Bristol next year, Elvie has plenty on its plate. The company spends six weeks on planning towards the end of the year, from which it produces five company objectives. Each team in the business works out how they will contribute to these goals.

However, Ms Boler, 43, believes that a good plan should include what is to be avoided, as well as achieved. Her advice is simple: "Be clear on what the team will not do in 2020. Focusing on the priorities is critical."

Brindisa, a 31-year-old restaurant operator and importer of Spanish produce for supermarkets, independent retailers and caterers, engages in a comprehensive annual planning process that begins each November. Monika Linton, its founder, warns against getting bogged down in the detail in the early stages of planning: "We'll be looking at our overall numbers and how these fit into our ideas of where we want to be within a five-year-plus time frame."

Advice from people beyond the management team, both inside and outside the business, can help companies and their founders to come up with ideas and to identify threats, but Ms Linton, 58, suggests that business owners should be wary of being overly swayed. "If you don't stick your neck out, sometimes you may not move forward."

Kate McLaughlin, chief executive of We Got Pop, which provides a range of services to the film industry, has been through an "in-depth and rigorous planning process for 2020". The London-based business, whose clients include the makers of hits such as *Killing Eve*, is looking to secure venture capital funds, to expand in the United States and to launch a new service for freelancers.

Ms McLaughlin, 37, believes that staff should have a say in planning exercises, particularly in a growing venture. "Listening to the team's concerns about whether things could be moving too fast is really important. Make sure you're balancing being ambitious enough and challenging where you feel the team is being over-cautious with being fair and reasonable."

Olio, an online platform that allows people to share food that would otherwise go to waste, has just closed a funding round that Tessa Clarke, its co-founder, says forced her to plan in detail for 2020. She says that involving others in planning is healthy, so long as there's a balanced approach; too much weight given to staff views could "miss the bigger picture competitive, funding or strategic context", while a top-down plan that relies primarily on board advisers could "lack buy-in from the team".

More than a million people have joined the service and, with increasing awareness of food waste and climate change, Ms Clarke, the daughter of North Yorkshire farmers, says that her challenge is to capitalise on the momentum and take her service mainstream.

Yet even as an advocate of making detailed plans, she believes that there's little point in looking too far ahead. "We don't operationally plan in too much detail beyond [the second quarter]. Things can change and your plans will likely become out of date."

The intervention of reality does not mean that your plans have to go the way of so many new year's resolutions, though. In Ms McLaughlin's view: "Sometimes the right thing to do is not force the plan back on course but to adapt the plan."

Ministers hold key to confidence boost, say small firms

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

The government must deliver on promises to overhaul business rates, tackle the late payment of commercial debts and improve infrastructure if business confidence is to be revived in 2020, an employers' group has warned.

The Federation of Small Businesses said that companies would be hoping that the adage "the night is darkest before the dawn" holds true as it revealed that its quarterly measure of members' confidence was at its lowest ebb since the recession that followed the banking crisis.

It said that its most recent survey, conducted before the general election, had found companies "gripped by pessimism" linked with political uncertainty, concerns about the future direction of global trade and rising employment costs.

Its small business index, a measure of sentiment among companies, has been in negative territory for six quarters and is now on a par with where it stood in 2011. Moreover, the federation found little confidence that the new year would bring an improvement, with almost half of the 1,029 businesses surveyed expecting their performance to worsen over the coming three months. Fewer than one in four expected trade to pick up.

Pessimism was especially pronounced in retail and the gloom will not have been lifted by weak Christmas trading. More than one in three small companies cited consumer demand as a barrier to growth, a three-year high, the FSB said.

Labour costs were also identified as a barrier. One in ten small companies said that they were planning to increase their workforces over the next three months, a five-year low for the index.

Fewer than one in four exporters anticipated that international sales would increase over the next quarter, while a third expected them to drop — a five-year low and high, respectively.

Craig Beaumont, director of external affairs at the federation, said: "The incoming government has made some very positive commitments to the small business community, particularly where connectivity, employment costs, business rates and late payments are concerned. It now needs to deliver."

Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,195.65	Aston Martin Lagonda	524⅞	+ 14⅜	...	-7.9

Banking & finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
31.14	1PM♦	35	...	2.6	5.3
6,804.71	**Admiral**	2317	+ 56	3.9	16.7
5.01	ADVFN♦	19½	...	...	...
0.31	Amphion Innovs♦#	⅛	...	...	...
184.95	Amryt Pharma♦	121	+ 2½	...	-2.0
36,739.92	Aon Corpn	15832⅝	- 204⅝	0.8	33.0
103.89	Appreciate Group♦	55¾	+ 1¼	5.7	11.4
197.28	Arbuthnot Bkg♦	1325	+ 35	2.6	27.3
19.92	Arc Minerals♦	2⅝	+ ¼	...	-2.4
5.23	Arden Partners♦	18	...	5.5	-2.5
9.55	Argo Group♦	24½	...	...	15.6
3,731.20	Ashmore Gp	523½	+ 10½	3.1	20.9
37,489.13	Aus New Z	1321¾	- 16	6.6	11.3
16,538.38	**Aviva**	422⅛	+ 3	7.1	7.2
53,817.76	Banco Santander	323¾	...	4.5	11.4
777.84	Bank of Georgia	1635	+ 3	4.2	6.1
31,425.66	**Barclays**	181½	+ 3	3.8	16.8
2,990.10	Beazley	564½	+ 14½	2.1	24.0
3.71	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	1.6
99.43	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	266	+ 2	1.7	8.1
2.81	Braveheart Inv♦	10	- ½	5.0	-1.2
1,137.61	Brewin Dolphin	375⅛	+ 8½	4.3	21.3
13.65	Carador	33½	- 2⅝	11.4	-5.3
34.02	Cenkos Secs♦	60	+ 15½	7.5	19.3
164.42	Charles Stanley‡	323	- 11	2.7	14.4
268.72	Charles Taylor	344	- 1	3.3	...
465.19	Chesnara	310	- 10	6.6	8.2
55.94	City of Lon Gp♦	140	...	...	...
117.53	City Lon Inv Gp	442½	+ 3½	6.1	12.9
1.99	Clear Leisure♦	¼	...	...	-0.5
2,447.85	Close Bros	1618	+ 29	3.9	12.2
424.42	CMC Markets	146¾	+ 1⅜	1.3	16.8
5,813.07	Commerzbk	464⅛	- 12	...	8.0
12,171.89	Deutsche Bk	588⅞	- 13⅝	1.6	-3.0
4,371.13	Direct Line Ins	317⅞	+ 5½	6.6	10.1
95.35	Downing ONE VCT	72	...	6.9	...
645.90	EFG-Hermes Hldg	168	...	3.8	9.6
4.93	EIH♦	7⅝	...	...	-2.6
1.18	Energiser Inv♦	⅞	...	...	-1.2
60.81	EPE Special Opps♦	185	+ 5	...	3.0
340.38	FBD	708⅝	...	6.3	4.8
6.90	Fiske♦	59	...	...	...
27.20	Frenkel Topping♦	36	...	3.5	25.9
373.58	Georgia Capital	930	- 31	...	...
14.36	GLI Finance♦	4½	...	...	-0.7
169.73	Gresham House♦	610	...	0.4	...
44.99	Gresh Hse Strat♦‡	1275	+ 10	1.5	...
89.35	Gulf Invest‡	96⅝	...	2.4	6.7
126.36	H&T Group♦	318	- 12	3.4	10.4
59.15	Hansard Global	43	+ ½	10.3	13.0
9,334.59	**Hargreaves L**	1968	+ 5½	1.6	37.8
1,210.76	Hastings Gp	183	+ 9	7.3	12.6
24.03	Helios Under♦	133½	...	...	21.6
1.49	Highway Capital#	15½	...	...	-5.0
4,125.59	Hiscox	1430	+ 11	2.3	41.6
121,428.50	**HSBC**	597¾	- 2⅜	6.8	11.5
2,596.42	IG Group	702¾	+ 14	6.6	16.4
495.58	Impax♦	380	+ 20	1.0	32.7
4,768.97	Intermediate Cap‡	1642	+ 37	2.7	23.2
369.08	IPF	165	- 5	7.5	5.4
2,677.14	Intl Public Pntshp	166⅛	+ 3½	4.2	15.5
3,121.93	Investec	448½	- 1	5.4	9.3
16.56	Investment Co	347	...	5.2	...
747.76	IP Group	70½	- 2	...	...
0.19	IRF Euro Fin Inv	⅛	...	...	...
52.35	Jarvis Securities♦	479	...	5.4	14.0
1,894.88	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	414	+ 7⅜	4.1	14.2
811.50	Just Group	78⅜	- ½	...	...
1,565.05	Lancashire Hdgs	775	+ 10	1.5	...
0.23	Leaf Clean Energy♦	200	+ 42½	...	-5.9
4.64	Leeds Group♦	17	...	...	-3.6
18,474.25	**Legal & Gen**	309⅝	+ 4	5.3	9.8
1,793.84	Liberty Group	626¾	+ 4⅞	6.1	11.2
605.03	Liontrust‡	1105	+ 90	2.0	33.9
83.21	Livermore Invs♦	47½	+ 6	...	12.1
44,253.94	**Lloyds Bkg Gp**	63⅛	+ ¾	5.1	21.0
31.48	LMS Capital‡	39	- 2½	...	-6.8
4.91	Location Sciences♦	1¼	...	...	-1.0
27,140.03	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	7760	+ 136	0.7	57.1
2,428.13	Man	160⅛	+ 1⅜	5.7	11.2
11.14	Manx Fin♦	8½	...	...	3.3
0.50	Marechale Cap♦	⅞	...	...	-1.6
43,149.22	Marsh McLn	8550	- 30½	1.6	35.8
217.01	Mattioli Woods♦	807½	+ 2½	2.2	26.3
21.08	Metal Tiger♦	1¼	...	...	2.7
365.88	Metro Bank	212⅛	+ 3⅛	...	...
39,189.87	Nat Aust Bk	1329¾	- 28¾	7.4	13.9
315.17	Numis♦‡	295	- 7	4.0	22.0
1,917.72	Onesavings Bank	431	+ 8⅛	3.3	8.1
0.75	Origo Partners♦	⅛	...	...	-0.4
1,403.84	Paragon	547½	+ 8½	3.5	10.2
690.42	PayPoint‡	1010	+ 8	3.8	15.9
87.57	PCF Group♦	35	...	0.8	14.6
5,446.68	**Phoenix Gp**	754⅞	+ 9⅛	6.0	9.9
1.35	Plutus PowerGen♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
11.44	Polo Resources♦	3⅝	- ⅜	...	-1.8
1,181.25	Provident	466⅛	+ 11⅛	2.1	19.9
37,466.44	**Prudential**	1440½	- 2½	3.4	14.1
30.87	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	3	...	...	-9.2
3,068.33	Quilter PLC	161¼	+ 2⅛	2.0	21.2
344.81	Randall & Quilter♦	176	- 4	3.1	8.0
1,205.89	Rathbone Brs	2140	+ 40	3.0	49.0
332.03	Redde♦	108⅛	+ ⅜	10.7	9.7
2,136.72	Robeco N/V	2670⅞	...	...	...
1,359.65	Rolinco N/V	2489¾	...	...	...
29,339.81	**Ryl Bk Scot**	242½	- ½	2.2	14.6
5,861.76	**RSA Ins**	568⅛	+ 12½	3.7	22.4
255.45	S & U	2110	- 10	5.5	8.9
292.96	Schroder REIT	56½	- ¼	4.5	28.2
9,103.99	**Schroders**	3392	+ 32	3.3	20.3
9,103.99	Schroders N/V	2545	- 15	4.4	15.2
291.94	Secure Trust Bk	1580	- 5	5.2	9.7
42.74	Share♦	29¾	...	1.8	...
102.85	Sigma Cap♦	115	...	1.7	9.6
38.27	Sosander♦	23½	...	...	-6.8
6,292.74	**St James Place**	1177½	+ 11	4.1	42.0
23,102.22	**Stand Chart**	722¾	- ⅜	2.2	58.2
7,853.54	**Strd Life Aber**	335½	+ 4⅛	6.7	...
1.15	Starvest♦	2	+ ⅛	...	1.4
14.26	STM Group♦	24	+ ⅞	8.3	2.9
20,428.14	Sun Life Can	3476⅜	- 30⅞	3.6	13.6
720.34	TBC Bank Group	1306	+ 4	4.1	5.2
0.52	Tiger Res Plc♦	¼	...	...	-0.8
9.25	UltimateSports♦	26	...	...	...
2,724.09	Virgin Money UK	189⅞	+ 3⅝	1.6	...
20.45	Volvere♦	1115	...	...	...
23.86	WH Ireland♦	49	...	...	-1.5
11.50	Walker Crips Grp	27	- ½	3.3	17.4
174,204.56	Wells Fargo	4118⅞	+ 44¾	3.6	10.9
46,872.99	Westpac	1297¾	- 16½	7.9	12.5
7.14	Worsley Investors Ltd	30½	...	...	64.8
55.36	Zoltav Resource♦	39	...	...	...
46,976.83	Zurich Fincl	31399⅞	- 172⅛	4.7	15.0

Construction & property

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
253.15	Abbey♦	1205	...	1.3	6.9
34.51	Alumasc♦	95½	+ 3½	7.7	47.7
69.82	Aseana Props	35⅛	...	...	...
1.53	Ashley Hse♦	2½	...	...	-0.5
1,872.99	Assura Grp‡	77⅝	+ 1⅛	3.5	22.8
3.22	Aukett Fitz Rob♦	1⅞	...	...	-2.0
1,853.34	Balfour Beatty	268½	+ 5½	1.7	16.6
7,596.04	**Barratt Devs**	746	+ 6¾	3.6	10.3
4,680.14	Bellway‡	3799	+ 53	3.8	8.7
6,218.72	**Berkeley**	4940	+ 18	0.8	10.5
1,993.84	Big Yellow Group‡	1193	+ 25	2.7	12.3
45.27	Billington Hldgs♦	350	...	3.7	9.0
419.49	Boot (Henry)	315	...	2.8	11.8
2,036.63	Bovis Homes‡	1373	...	4.1	12.5
1,386.72	Breedon Group♦	82⅜	- ⅜	...	18.7
5,837.76	**Br Land**	630	+ 26	4.9	-9.2
20.92	Caledonian Tst♦	177½	- 2½	...	...
2,221.18	Cap & Count Prop	260	+ 8⅝	0.5	...
257.63	Cap & Regnl‡	24¾	- 1	9.7	-2.0
21.39	Cardiff Prop	1725	...	0.9	14.0
105.10	Carecapital♦	43	+ 1	...	-3.5
57.04	Clarke T	132½	+ 5½	3.0	8.8
1,264.96	CLS Hldgs	310½	+ 21½	2.2	9.0
2,106.90	Countryside Prop‡	468⅛	+ 10⅛	2.3	14.5
117.62	Countrywide	7⅛	...	...	0.1
4.68	Craven House♦	175⅝	...	...	-3.0
1,124.80	Crest Nicholson	437¾	+ 15¾	7.5	8.2
24,478.35	**CRH**	3100	+ 44	2.0	17.8
896.24	Daejan	5500	- 110	1.9	14.9
4,450.02	Derwent London	3982	+ 134	1.6	20.2
38.90	Dolphin Capital♦	4¼	...	...	-1.5
11.76	Dragon-Ukra Prop♦	10¾	...	...	6.9
5.25	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
51.32	First Prop♦‡	46½	+ 1½	3.5	8.8
3.87	Fletcher King♦	42	...	4.1	16.8
228.89	Foxtons Group	83⅛	+ 3⅛	...	...
960.99	Galliford Try	865½	+ 26	8.3	11.0
504.42	Gleeson (MJ)	912	- 28	3.7	15.1
2,123.60	Grafton Gp Uts	890	+ 10½	2.0	13.9
1,911.57	Grainger‡	312⅛	+ 7⅛	1.6	15.7
2,184.28	Gr Portland‡	860⅜	+ 23½	1.4	38.0
2,396.20	Hammerson	312⅝	+ 15	8.2	-3.7
499.09	Hansteen Hldgs	116¾	+ ⅜	5.3	11.0
450.67	Harworth Gp	140	...	0.6	10.4
7.10	Heath (Samuel)♦	280	...	4.4	9.8
568.69	Helical Bar‡	474	+ 11½	2.1	18.7
48.70	Highcroft Invs	942½	+ 12½	5.1	15.3
10,216.49	HK Land	437⅝	+ 9⅛	3.9	7.4
1,268.70	Ibstock	310	+ 10⅛	3.0	18.3
448.79	Intu Properties	33	- ⅝	13.8	-0.3
1,223.99	James Halstead♦	546	+ 6	2.5	30.0
1,873.62	John Laing Group	381	+ 10⅜	1.4	12.2
552.78	Keller	767	+ 15	4.6	...
8,399.49	Kingspan Group	4643⅜	+ 89½	0.8	26.5
7,276.72	**Land Sec‡**	981⅜	+ 38¾	4.6	...
18.52	Lon & Assoc	21⅝	...	0.8	-4.0
83.63	Low & Bonar	12⅛	+ ⅛	10.9	-0.7
69.57	Macau Prop Op	112½	+ 1½	...	-2.7
1,737.45	Marshalls	868½	+ 27	1.3	31.0
810.83	McCarthy & Stone	150⅞	+ 5⅞	3.5	19.8
266.77	McKay Secs‡	283	+ 8	3.6	22.3
108.21	Michelmersh♦‡	117	+ 2½	2.7	18.4
729.60	Morgan Sindall	1604	+ 44	3.3	10.8
3.94	Mountfield Gp♦	1½	+ ⅛	...	5.8
460.08	Mountview	11800	+ 50	3.3	15.7
629.10	NewRiver REIT‡	205½	- ½	10.5	...
61.86	NMCN	595	- 17½	3.0	11.5
1.44	Pac All China Land♦	54⅛	...	...	-0.3
150.48	Palace Capital‡	326½	+ 6½	5.8	...
67.20	Panther Securities♦	380	...	3.4	...
3.35	Pathfinder Mins♦	1	...	...	-4.7
8,445.54	**Persimmon**	2650	+ 40	8.8	9.5
1.73	Pires Investments♦	2½	+ ⅝	...	1.2
2.57	Plaza Cent	37½	...	...	...
1.03	PME African Infra♦	4⅛	...	...	-0.9
1,087.99	Polypipe Group	544	+ 10	2.1	22.0
1,941.25	Primary Hlth	159½	+ 6⅛	3.4	...
240.96	Raven Property	49⅛	+ ⅛	...	-4.6
1,737.30	Raven Property Group‡	131½	...	...	...
236.84	Raven R CNV Pref	119½	...	...	...
...	Raven Russia Wnts	21	...	...	...
501.26	RDI REIT	131¾	- 4¾	10.2	17.8
100.67	Real Estate Invs♦	54	+ 1	6.7	21.8
2,662.56	Redrow	756	+ 24	4.0	8.2
1,720.34	Safestore	817½	+ 16½	1.9	13.5
1,633.71	Savills	1142	+ 11	1.3	21.2
10.82	Secure Property♦	8½	- ¼	...	-6.6
9,865.42	**SEGRO**	899½	+ 24½	2.0	10.4
729.98	SIG	123⅜	+ 2¾	3.0	...
132.58	SigmaRoc♦	52¼	+ ½	...	30.0
52.83	Smart (J)‡	122½	...	2.5	11.9
1,132.76	St Modwen Prp	510	+ 23½	1.3	18.8
77.75	Steppe Cement♦	35½	+ 1	8.4	8.3
6,377.71	**Taylor Wimpey**	194⅜	+ 1¾	3.2	9.7
118.02	Town Centre‡	222	+ 8	5.2	-9.4
4,108.69	Travis Perkins	1629½	+ 28½	2.8	55.2
2,543.39	Tritax Big Box REIT	149	+ 3⅝	4.5	10.7
530.01	Tyman	270	+ 5	4.4	21.7
4,584.14	Unite Group	1261	+ 37	2.3	14.0
508.02	Urban&Civic plc	350	+ 5	1.0	11.4
269.08	Warehouse REIT♦‡	112	+ 1	5.3	13.4
2,165.26	Workspace Grp	1198	+ 18	2.7	16.3
15.73	Wynnstay Props♦	580	...	3.2	6.5

Consumer goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1.16	Agriterra♦#	5⅜	...	...	-0.5
19.02	Airea♦	46	+ 4	8.1	6.3
228.66	Anglo-Eastern	572	+ 8	0.4	...
105.10	Animalcare♦	175	- 1	2.5	...
20,916.03	**AB Foods‡**	2642	+ 51	1.7	23.7
811.20	Bakkavor Group	140	- 2	4.2	18.4
648.24	Barr (AG)	578	+ 7	2.8	20.4
27.06	Bidstack Group♦	11	- ⅞	...	-5.4
74,917.56	**Brit Amer Tob‡**	3266	- 22	6.1	12.1
2,402.08	Britvic‡	904	+ 10½	3.1	20.2
9,101.85	**Burberry Grp‡**	2233	+ 42	1.9	25.8
1,259.93	C&C Grp	406	+ 1	3.4	18.4
143.23	Carr's Grp‡	155	- 2	2.9	12.1
87.45	Character Grp♦	410	+ 10	5.6	8.4
199.93	Churchill China♦	1825	...	1.5	25.4
9,455.97	**Coca Cola HBC**	2603	+ 75	1.9	25.3
38.80	Colefax♦	430	...	1.1	10.9
1,741.73	Cranswick‡	3344	+ 36	1.6	23.5
288.49	Devro	172¾	- 3½	5.2	18.9
78,575.38	**Diageo**	3229	+ 39	2.0	24.8
3.51	Distil PLC♦	⅝	...	...	70.0
2.49	Equat Palm Oil♦	⅝	...	...	-0.2
122.56	Finsbury Food♦	94	+ 3	3.5	13.4
1,991.53	Games Workshop‡	6095	+ 105	2.5	30.3
2,650.86	Glanbia	895⅜	+ 26⅜	2.4	13.5
1,196.84	Greencore	268¼	+ 1⅛	2.1	34.8
458.48	Headlam‡	540	+ 37	4.6	13.6
0.86	Hidong Estate	50	...	...	34.4
894.06	Hilton Food	1094	+ 14	1.9	29.5
47.60	Hornby♦	38	- 1	...	-9.9
17,599.41	**Imperial Brands‡**	1859½	+ 10½	10.1	11.4
0.98	J Lewis Hford♦	½	...	...	5.2
16,964.08	Kerry Gp	9610¾	...	0.6	34.3
5.87	LightwaveRF♦	4¾	...	...	-1.2
159.03	McBride	87	+ 5	3.2	13.3
177.23	Mulberry Group♦	295	+ 7½	1.6	...
553.61	Nichols♦	1497½	- 202½	2.5	21.3
225.30	Norcros‡	280	...	3.0	13.0
417.71	Origin Ents♦	332½	...	5.7	8.7
10.07	Pittards♦	72½	...	...	-5.3
85.39	Portmeirion♦	785	+ 25	4.7	13.7
14.42	Provexis♦	⅝	+ ⅛	...	...
242.00	PureCircle#	131⅛	...	...	...
878.89	PZ Cussons	205	+ 18¾	4.0	32.8
74.49	REA	170	+ 11	...	-2.1
6.02	Real Gd Fd♦	6	...	...	-0.2
5.09	RiverFort Global Opps♦	...	...	...	...
408.00	Stock Spirits	204	+ 1½	3.5	35.3
9.05	Tandem♦	180	...	2.3	4.2
24.71	Tern♦	9⅛	...	...	...
276.18	Treatt	459	- 3	1.1	29.1
5.58	Two Shields♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
1.19	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2⅞	...	...	2.8
64,687.78	Unilever (NV)	4428½	+ 21¼	3.1	14.0
116,063.54	**Unilever**	4416	+ 49	3.1	14.0
536.08	Victoria♦	427½	+ 5	...	...
0.24	Walcom Group♦	¼	...	...	-0.7
21.76	Worthington Gp#	87	...	...	...

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
57.40	Amiad Water Syst♦	253	...	...	46.0
0.31	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-0.2
648.39	Avon Rubber	2090	+ 50	0.7	45.6
3,179.19	Babcock‡	628¾	+ 22	4.7	15.9
18,577.54	**BAE SYS**	579½	+ 8¾	3.8	14.0
1,847.55	Bodycote	965	+ 28	1.9	18.4
2.85	Bould Opportunities♦#	...	...	...	-0.3
26.64	Braime A N/V♦	1850	...	0.6	12.3
22.32	Braime Group♦	1550	...	0.7	10.3
11.52	Caffyns‡	400	...	5.6	...
10.55	Cap XX Ld♦	3¼	+ ¼	...	-6.5
178.89	Castings‡	410	+ 5	3.6	14.5
2.51	Chamberlin♦	31½	+ ½	...	-0.3
20.78	Checkit♦	33½	+ 1	...	16.7
3,926.04	Cobham	164⅛	+ ½	...	...
291.22	Cohort♦	711	+ 37	1.2	53.5
13.64	Croma Security♦	91½	+ 5	1.8	11.7
84.09	Dewhurst♦	1000	+ 37½	1.2	20.1
77.12	Dialight	237	- 1	...	45.5
5,707.50	Electrolux 'B'	1897⅞	- 13	3.6	18.8
4.99	Feedback♦	⅞	...	...	-3.1
348.04	Gooch Hsego♦	1390	+ 15	0.8	...
220.90	Goodwin	3000	- 160	2.7	20.0
8,211.73	**Halma‡**	2163	+ 42	0.7	45.5
1,194.96	Hill & Smith‡	1506	+ 6	2.1	23.1
1.90	Holders Tech♦	45	+ 2½	1.6	12.2
3.34	Image Scan♦	2⅞	- ¼	...	-7.6
3,256.86	IMI	1196½	+ 16½	3.3	19.1
2.03	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.0
359.78	Judges Scientific♦	5780	+ 120	0.6	33.6
10.63	LPA♦	84	...	3.4	14.6
5,131.46	**Meggitt**	660	+ 14	2.5	35.6
11,737.54	**Melrose**	241½	+ 9	1.9	...
926.88	Morgan Advanced	324¾	+ 8	3.3	16.0
39.64	Mpac PLC♦	196½	+ 5½	...	...
30.32	MS Intl♦‡	181	+ 4	4.5	7.8
35.85	Northbrdg Ind♦	128½	+ 7	...	...
856.11	Oxford Inst	1492	+ 18	0.9	25.3
33,937.26	Philips El nv	3748¾	+ 7⅝	2.0	29.0
2.10	PipeHawk♦	6⅛	+ ¼	...	8.5
22.13	Pressure Tech♦	119	+ 1½	...	...
4.55	PV Crystalox Solar	62½	+ 1	...	4.0
2,846.03	Renishaw	3910	+ 16	1.5	30.8
40.58	Renold♦	18	+ ¼	...	5.6
13,544.00	**Rolls-Royce**	701⅞	+ 5½	1.6	-5.5
3.28	Ross Gp	1½	...	...	...
2,973.93	Rotork	341	+ 5½	1.7	32.7
75.33	SDI Group♦	77½	+ 1¼	...	37.8
749.92	Senior	178¾	...	4.1	16.6
256.98	Severfield‡	84	- 3	3.3	15.8
17.33	Six Hundred♦‡	14¾	...	5.1	4.8
6,706.00	SKF B	1586	+ 6⅛	3.1	13.2
0.65	Slingsby (HC)♦	65	...	...	-0.8
6,792.73	**Smiths**	1714½	+ 7½	2.6	48.8
51.84	Solid State♦	607½	- 12½	2.0	14.6
152.14	Somero Enter♦	270	+ 16½	5.5	10.4
3,423.47	Spectris	2952	+ 44	2.0	72.1
6,722.08	**Spirax-Sarco**	9125	+ 125	1.1	30.4
32.26	Surface Trsfms♦	23⅝	...	...	...
4.64	Tex Hldgs#	73	...	3.4	-4.9
390.87	Thorpe FW♦	336	+ 3	1.6	24.3
51.04	TP Group♦	6½	...	...	3.3
12.56	Transense Tech♦	77	+ 1½	...	-6.9
3.60	Tricorn♦	10½	...	1.9	6.1
1,526.80	Ultra Electrncs	2152	+ 2	2.4	32.1
1,364.21	Vesuvius	503	+ 7⅜	3.9	10.9
490.02	Vitec	1075	+ 20	3.4	16.7
218.81	Volex♦	146	+ 12	...	19.5
4,008.41	Weir	1544	+ 16½	2.9	65.1
558.03	XP Power‡	2900	+ 10	2.9	21.8
37.30	Zytronic♦	232½	+ 22½	9.8	12.6

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
613.26	AdvancedMedical♦	285½	+ 4	0.4	29.7
64.25	Allergy Therap♦	10	- ⅛	...	19.4
442.85	Allnce Pharma♦‡	84	+ 2⅝	1.7	20.7
104.69	Angle♦	60½	- ⅞	...	-9.2
76.92	Anpario♦	330	...	2.0	17.6
14.91	Aortech Int♦	101½	- 2½	...	...
58.93	Aqua Bounty♦	662½	...	...	...
101,607.68	**AstraZeneca**	7745	- 63	2.9	59.4
26.56	Brand Architekts♦	155	+ 2½	4.1	18.4
142.88	Cello Health♦	134½	- ½	2.8	19.0
72.04	Circassia Phm♦	19⅛	+ ¼	...	-1.2
505.96	Consort Med	1025	- 25	2.0	...
3,930.33	Convatec Group	198⅛	+ 7	2.2	31.5
27.83	Creighton	44½	+ 1½	0.8	10.7
3,049.50	Dechra Pharma	2966	+ 18	0.9	98.6
7.34	Deltex Medical♦	1⅜	...	...	...
8.34	e-Therapeutics♦	3	...	...	-2.6
145.16	Eco Animal Hlth♦	215	+ 10	4.6	12.3
156.66	EKF Diagnostics♦	34½	+ ¼	...	15.2
31.21	Futura Medical♦	15¼	+ 6¼	...	-3.0
2,100.55	Genus	3228	+ 62	0.8	...
90,745.78	**GlaxoSmKline‡**	1818¾	+ 5½	4.4	19.9
0.76	Gunsynd♦	...	...	...	-0.5
4,916.65	**Hikma Pharms**	2029	+ 18	1.4	17.3
2,574.18	Hutchison CM♦	386	+ 18	...	15.5
78.58	Immunodiag Sys♦	273	...	0.2	71.8
27.28	ImmuPharma♦	16¼	- ½	...	-3.2
298.08	Indivior	40¾	+ 2	...	1.7
43.85	IXICO♦	93½	+ 23	...	...
11.96	LIDCO♦	4⅞	...	...	-7.9
3,029.20	Mediclinic Int	410⅞	+ 4⅞	1.9	24.0

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Forecast Yld%	P/E
10,737.15	**3i Group**	1103½	- 2½	4.0	26.0
2,629.73	3i Infrastructure	295	+ 2½	3.7	22.1
356.24	Abrdn Div I&G	111	- 1	4.2	-6.9
1,369.86	Aberforth Smlr	1530	+ 30	2.7	-3.3
2,806.93	Alliance	853	+ 9	1.5	-4.8
531.24	Asia Dragon Tr	415	+ 2	1.0	-11.0
5.07	Athelney Trust	235	...	3.5	-10.9
862.72	AVI Global Trust	789	+ 4	1.5	-8.7
357.77	Baillie Gifford Euro Gr	889	+ 15	3.0	-9.3
771.75	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	835	- 8	0.4	-0.3
509.95	Baillie Gifford SN	182⅜	- 2	...	-0.8
306.31	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	203½	+ 3½	2.2	-6.4
1,238.83	Bankers	1010	+ 14	2.1	1.3
298.02	BH Global	1500	- 35	...	-5.6
374.92	BH Macro	2620	+ 50	...	1.1
400.59	Biotech Growth	942	+ 14	...	-8.7
80.39	BlckRck Com Inc	70½	+ 1½	5.4	-10.1
320.76	BlckRck Fro Inv	133	- 3	5.2	1.5
342.77	BlckRck Grt Euro	406½	+ 2½	1.4	-4.1
46.89	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	205	...	3.4	-5.7
191.00	BlckRck Latin Am	486½	- 3½	5.3	-13.7
153.85	BlckRck N Amer Inc	190¾	- ¼	4.3	-11.6
828.37	BlckRck Smlr	1714	+ 24	2.0	1.9
521.12	BlckRck Throgmorton	685	+ 13	1.5	2.8
669.62	BlckRck Wld Min	382½	+ 11	5.3	-13.6
17.56	Blue Plan Int Fn	35½	...	5.5	-23.6
363.86	BMO Cap&Inc	354	+ 5	3.4	1.0
925.67	BMO Comm Prop	115¾	- ⅛	4.5	-11.8
904.77	BMO Glbl Smaller	149	...	1.1	-4.0
276.54	BMO Priv Eq Ord	374	- 1	3.8	-2.2
201.71	BMO Real Estate	83¾	+ 2⅛	4.8	-16.9
87.36	BMO UK HIT	101½	+ ½	4.8	-8.9
31.63	BMO UK HIT B	102½	+ 1½	...	-8.0
128.53	BMO UK HIT UNIT	401	+ 5	3.5	-9.7
390.64	Brunner	915	+ 5	2.1	-7.0
1,716.29	Caledonia Inv	3125	- 15	1.1	-15.7
195.39	City Merch Hi Yld	195½	- 1	5.3	2.1
1,771.85	City of Lon IT	446½	+ 5	4.4	2.0
123.88	Crystal Amber Fd♦	132	+ 4½	2.5	-31.5
77.00	Dunedin Entp	373	...	0.4	-12.8
1,122.24	Edinburgh IT	634	- 1	4.1	-11.3
599.30	Edin Wwide	198	+ 4⅛	...	1.8
155.05	Electra Pte Eq	405	+ 5	...	-24.1
126.24	EP Global Opp	306½	+ 4½	2.1	-6.3
399.53	European Assets	111	+ ½	...	-5.9
4,197.95	F&C Investment Tr	774	+ 6	1.5	1.0
310.64	Fidlty Asian Val	411	- 2	2.2	2.0
1,270.90	Fidelity China Sp	231½	+ 4½	1.6	-9.8
1,084.21	Fidlty Euro Val	263½	+ 5½	3.3	-6.8
233.78	Fidlty Jap Tru	175½	- 3	...	-8.4
794.27	Fidlty Spec Val	278½	+ 3	2.0	2.1
1,911.50	Fins Gwth & Inc	920	+ 10	1.8	0.8
1,159.05	GCP Infrastructure	132	+ ½	6.6	19.7
824.00	GCP Student Living	199⅛	+ 7⅛	3.6	17.8
977.81	Gen Emer Mkts	805	+ 9	...	-10.5
17.39	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	30½	+ 2½	...	-26.5
2,284.95	Greencoat UK	150½	+ 1⅜	5.7	23.2
326.32	Hansa Investment	188½	+ 2⅜	1.1	-35.2
225.00	Hansa Invest Co 'A'	187½	...	1.1	-33.8
1,445.51	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	1810	+ 14	...	-12.3
290.23	Hend Euro Foc	1350	+ 15	2.2	-10.4
246.90	Hend High Inc	192	...	5.2	-0.1
823.21	Hend Smlr	1102	+ 32	2.3	-2.8
1,015.06	Herald	1508	+ 50	...	-10.7
1,044.51	HgCapital Trust	257	+ 5	1.9	1.6
3,151.19	HICL Infra	170	+ 1	5.2	9.1
...	Highbridge Tactical	182½	...	...	-13.2
695.66	ICG Ent Tr	1010	+ 5	1.8	-14.8
685.91	Impax Env Mkts	336	+ 6	0.9	2.3
195.55	Invesco Asia Tr	292½	- ½	2.9	-11.7
172.73	Invesco Inc&Gr	295	+ 1	3.5	-14.3
7.96	IPST Bal	144	...	...	-3.0
65.52	IPST Gbl Eq	217	+ 5	3.3	-1.9
3.72	IPST Managed	103	...	0.7	-2.1
60.49	IPST UK Eq	186½	+ 3	3.6	-3.3
132.78	IP Enhanced Inc	77⅞	+ ¼	6.8	2.7
213.55	IP UKSmallerCos	636	+ 28	1.9	3.4
1,024.67	JPM American	489½	+ 3½	1.3	-4.9
367.86	JPM Asian	391	- 3	4.0	-5.9
24.72	JPM Brazil	73¾	+ 2¼	0.9	-21.5
261.73	JPM Chinese	360	+ 9	0.9	-7.2
438.98	JPM Claverhs	774	- 6	3.8	-1.4
5.11	JPM Elect Mg C	102½	...	0.3	-0.6
274.58	JPM Elect Mg G	902½	+ 5	1.7	-2.5
93.63	JPM Elect Mg I	110½	...	4.3	-2.8
1,291.56	JPM Em Mkts	1070	+ 16	1.3	-5.9
199.36	JPM Eur IT Gth	290	- 5	2.6	-13.4
154.89	JPM Eur IT Inc	155	...	3.7	-11.1
605.96	JPM Euro Smlr	380	+ 4	1.6	-13.3
408.71	JPM GEMI	137½	...	3.8	-3.2
477.37	JPM GG&I	348	...	4.7	2.7
784.31	JPM Indian	750	- 6	...	-7.5
237.67	JPM Jap Sml Co	436	...	3.5	-8.4
755.45	JPM Japan	468½	- 3½	...	-8.7
323.63	JPM Mid Cap	1365	- 5	2.2	-1.0
88.68	JPM Mlti-Ass	103	+ ¼	3.8	-4.9
337.23	JPM Russian	733	+ 9	4.0	-12.7
248.20	JPM Smllr Co	318	+ 4	1.9	-0.8
207.07	JPM US Sml	359	+ 4	0.7	2.9
921.06	Jupiter Euro Opps	816	+ 9	0.6	-6.9
47.82	Jupiter UK Grow Inv	303	+ 2	2.9	-2.8
152.64	Jupiter US Smlr	1145	...	...	-7.2
237.90	Keystone IT	1765	+ 40	3.0	-12.3
771.85	Law Debenture	652	+ 8	2.8	-6.6
393.80	Lowland	1457½	+ 37½	4.1	-4.5
137.91	Majedie	260	+ 4	3.7	-10.8
254.40	M Currie Port	307	+ 1	1.4	-0.6
64.56	Marwyn Val In	106	...	...	-33.3
2,097.54	Mercantile IT	265	+ 6	2.5	-2.4
621.63	Merchants	558	+ 2	5.1	0.6
274.16	Mid Wynd	608	+ 2	1.0	1.5
2,140.70	Monks Inv Tst	971	+ 12	0.2	3.8
188.25	Montanaro Eur Sml	1125	+ 20	0.8	-5.2
590.37	Murray Income Trust	893	+ 9	4.6	-6.4
1,663.21	Murray Int	1286	+ 18	4.6	5.5
407.74	Nb Global Floating	92⅜	+ 2	5.0	-3.4
335.66	Pacific Assets	277½	- 2½	1.0	-4.8
1,403.62	Pantheon Int	2595	+ 45	...	-8.5
738.42	Perpetual In&Gr	338½	+ 2	4.1	-11.1
3,019.74	Pershing Square	1454	- 420	1.5	-28.1
1,149.94	Personal Assets	42650	+ 250	1.3	0.9
2,170.64	Polar Cap Tech	1622	+ 36	...	-0.8
...	Pollen Street	832	+ 8	5.0	-14.0
22.97	Prem Glb & Inf	127	...	7.5	-12.7
2,261.03	Renewables Inf	138⅜	+ 2⅜	5.8	23.5
3,348.71	RIT Cap Ptnr	2135	+ 30	...	9.7
327.58	Riverstone	410	+ 3	...	-60.8
362.21	Schroder TotRt	370	+ 10	1.7	0.5
798.00	Schrd Asia Pac	476½	+ 6½	1.9	-9.4
215.68	Schrod Inc Gwth	314	+ 2	4.0	-3.4
251.27	Schrod Jap Gwth	201	- 2	2.1	-13.0
244.70	Schrod UKMid	692	+ 50	2.5	-5.3
634.34	Scot American	430	- 1	2.9	4.2
620.20	Scot IT	840	+ 6	2.8	-9.2
8,576.63	**Scot Mtge**	588	+ 15½	0.5	1.2
216.45	Secs Tst Scot	208	+ 1	3.1	...
1,600.11	Sequoia Eco	115⅜	- ⅛	5.8	10.8
993.73	Temple Bar	1486	+ 14	3.7	0.1
2,071.13	Tplton Emg Mkt	850	+ 8	1.8	-9.7
1,555.02	TR Property	490	+ 6½	1.9	4.2
4.72	Tritax EuroBox EUR	1	- 106⅞	2.1	-1.9
278.81	Troy Inc&Gth	86½	+ 1	3.3	0.8
1,134.39	UK Comm Prop REIT	87¼	+ ¾	4.0	-4.0
218.04	Utilico Ord	253	+ 5	2.2	-27.5
542.78	Utilico Emerging Mkt	238	+ 6	2.9	-8.5
59.09	UtilFin RdZDP 2020	151½	...	...	3.7
66.00	UtilFin RdZDP 2022	132	- ½	...	6.7
1,036.88	Vietnam Ent Inv	475½	+ 9	...	-8.4
2,017.80	Witan	233	+ 1	2.2	-1.0
211.54	Witan Pacific	345½	- ½	1.9	-8.7
354.37	Schroder UK Pub Pri Tr	39	+ ½	...	-28.8
1,689.90	Ww Health	3175	...	0.8	2.1

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Equity prices Business

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2.79	N4 Pharma♦	2¾	...	...	-2.1
3.623.10	**NMC Health**	1736	+435½	1.0	17.1
CHF235.32bn	Novartis	CHF93.11	+0.50	3.1	29.6
21.64	Omega Diags♦	14⅜	...	...	...
510.27	Oxford Biomedica	664	+12	...	...
2.30	Physiomics♦	3⅜	+½	...	...
9.05	Premier Veterinary	59	-1	...	-2.8
8.71	Proteome Scies♦	2⅞	-¼	...	...
44,160.63	**Reckitt Benck**	6224	+44	2.7	19.4
11.06	Sareum Hldgs♦	¼	...	...	-7.2
313.48	Silence Therap♦	400	-10	...	...
16,284.39	**Smith & Neph**	1861	+24	1.5	29.7
557.50	Spire Hcare	139	+5⅜	2.7	34.7
70.53	Summit Corp♦	21	...	...	-0.9
6.43	Synairgen♦	5⅞	...	...	-1.7
11.72	Tissue Regenix♦	1	...	...	-1.4
56.03	Tiziana Life♦	41	...	...	-8.6
171.49	Tristel♦	383½	+8½	1.3	43.2
2,024.64	UDG Healthcare	809½	+16½	1.5	...
1.60	ValiRx♦	...	...	...	-0.2
577.86	Vectura Grp	94½	+2⅛	...	-7.4
77.94	Verona Pharma♦	74	+31½	...	-2.8

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
165.33	Accsys Tech	102	+7⅛	...	...
53,183.55	BASF	5790⅜	-3⅜	4.8	24.1
61,334.94	Bayer DM50	6243⅛	+145¾	3.9	...
7.84	Biome Tech♦	280	...	...	...
7.11	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	20.6
9.22	Camb Gbl Timber♦	12½	...	...	...
45.84	Cloudcall Group♦	99	+½	...	-8.3
1,083.56	Coats Grp	75	...	1.7	19.6
6,599.10	**Croda**	5120	+160	1.7	27.9
122.30	Cropper (James)♦‡	1280	...	1.0	2.9
14.36	DeepMatter Gp♦	1⅞	...	...	-4.5
1,059.30	Elementis	182½	+8	3.5	22.5
408.46	Evans (M.P.)♦	750	+12	2.3	...
30.22	Hardide♦	61½	...	...	...
25.72	Inspiration Health♦	67	+1	...	19.4
31,196.25	Jardine Math	4255⅛	+49⅝	3.1	12.1
26,226.06	Jardine Strat	2366⅝	+32	1.1	10.5
5,970.51	**Johnson Math**‡	3085	+20	2.7	15.4
8,667.13	**Mondi**	1785	+38	3.8	10.3
13.29	Robinson♦	80	...	6.8	13.7
378.79	Scapa♦	244	+14	1.1	...
5,397.63	**Smith (DS)**	393¼	+2	3.8	...
6,377.38	Swire Pacific	704½	+1⅜	4.2	5.8
11.48	Symph Environ♦	6¾	+¾	...	...
31,730.27	Syngenta	34274	+105¾	...	39.2
1,289.64	Synthomer	354⅛	+3¾	3.4	16.5
47,956.50	Takeda Pharm	3042½	-76⅝	4.4	...
9.02	Velocys♦	1⅝	...	...	-0.6
2,182.38	Victrex	2524	+60	2.3	21.9
59.19	Wynnstay Group♦	297½	+5	4.4	8.3
210.11	Zotefoams	435	-24	1.4	25.3

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
610.31	888 Hldgs	165⅝	+6⅝	4.8	13.1
138.20	Accesso Tech♦	500	+5	...	...
31.98	Best of the Best♦	341	+21	0.4	8.8
26,081.80	**Carnival**	3677	+90	4.4	10.1
13.34	Cathay Intl	3½	+¼	...	-0.7
153.22	Celtic♦	162½	...	...	23.9
3,053.96	Cineworld‡	222½	+2¼	6.6	14.2
1,503.17	Domino's Pizza	325⅛	+4¾	2.9	38.7
1,242.79	EI Group	283¾	+⅛	...	31.5
7,223.70	**Flutter Ent**	9230	+132	2.1	39.3
525.53	Fullr Sm A‡	950	-10	2.0	34.1
25.67	Gaming Realms♦	9	+⅛	...	-5.0
5,097.15	GVC Holdings	875½	+23	3.6	...
22.16	Heavitree♦	420	...	1.8	15.0
11.61	Heavitree A♦	220	...	3.6	7.8
1.40	Hermes Pacific♦	60	...	...	...
9,502.14	**Intercont Htls**	5220	+74	1.7	28.0
1,717.66	Mandarin Orntl	135⅞	+1½	1.7	68.1
856.49	Marston's‡	129⅝	+4½	5.7	11.1
8.05	Minoan Gp♦	1¾	-⅛	...	-1.2
1,976.35	Mitch & Butlers	460½	+9	...	17.9
638.72	On The Beach	487	+6⅜	0.6	27.8
802.48	PPHE Hotels	1890	-20	1.8	29.5
2.02	Prospex♦	⅛	...	...	1.9
1,078.29	Rank Grp	276	+½	2.7	38.8
787.87	Restaurant Gp	160¼	+1⅜	4.0	-9.4
27.30	Rotala♦	54½	+1	4.9	10.5
60.87	Sportech	32¼	-⅛	...	...
2,934.66	SSP Group	656	+6	1.6	24.9
0.73	St James House♦	23½	...	...	...
3.85	Tasty♦	2⅝	...	...	-1.3
5,738.42	**TUI**	974⅜	+26⅜	6.6	11.5
4.92	Webis Holdings♦	1¼	...	...	-6.5
1,773.25	Wetherspoon JD	1694	+51	0.7	24.5
6,541.97	**Whitbread**	4893	+62	2.0	20.5
1,622.42	William Hill	185½	+5¼	6.4	66.2
798.01	Young & Co - A♦	1627½	+7½	1.2	27.1
622.72	Young & Co - N/V♦	1270	-10	1.6	21.1

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4.05	7digital Gp♦	⅛	...	...	...
3.48	Aeorema Comms♦	38½	...	1.9	12.2
33.26	Altitude Group♦	48	-1½	...	...
26.16	Arcontech Grp♦	198	...	0.6	23.7
1,574.98	Ascential	391	+12¾	1.4	64.1
5,604.63	**Auto Trader**	607½	+13⅛	1.1	27.2
210.92	Bloomsbury Pub	280	-11	2.8	23.5
18.46	Bonhill Group♦	38	...	...	...
14.51	Catalyst Media♦	69	...	84.0	13.8
0.45	Catenae♦	1¼	+1¼	...	...
52.72	Centaur Media	36½	...	8.2	-3.4
1,767.75	Daily Mail‡	840	+1	2.7	4.8
6.99	DCD Media♦	275	...	...	...
26.41	Dods Gp♦	4¾	-⅛	...	-2.6
28.09	Ebiquity♦	37	-1½	1.9	-2.8
2.13	Edenville Energy♦	...	...	...	-0.3
2,778.72	Entertainmnt One	557	+1	...	...
1,422.43	Euromoney In Inv‡	1302	-8	2.5	36.0
1,446.69	Future	1476	+60	...	...
1,526.11	GlobalData♦	1290	+10	0.8	...
434.46	Gocompare.com	103¾	-⅛	1.5	22.0
838.62	Hyve Group	102¾	+½	1.8	...
561.31	IG Design Grp♦‡	714	+10	1.1	39.2
4.00	Immedia Grp♦	27½	...	...	...
10,860.60	**Informa**	867½	+22⅜	2.5	36.1
6,152.84	**ITV**	152¾	+3⅞	5.2	13.7
3.27	Jaywing♦	3½	...	...	-3.0
5,666.48	**Just Eat**	829½	+34½	...	...
24.25	Live Company Gp♦	30½	-1	...	-4.8
112.66	M&C Saatchi♦	121	-7½	9.0	7.3
0.77	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	...
12.03	Mirada♦	135	...	...	1.6
68.24	Mission Group♦	80	-½	2.3	12.3
1,823.10	Moneysupermarket	339¾	+8¾	3.2	19.4
4,209.11	News Corp A	1083¼	+17½	1.5	...
2,212.86	News Corp B	1108⅜	+15¼	1.4	...
450.07	Next 15 Comms♦	520	-2	1.4	59.7
5,122.65	**Pearson**	655	+30¾	2.8	11.3
364.40	Photo-Me	96⅜	-⅜	8.7	11.6
3.50	Primorus Inv♦	2½	...	...	-9.5
15.44	Quarto	75½	...	...	6.9
49.13	Reabold Resources♦	⅝	...	...	-9.1
396.83	Reach	132½	+⅛	4.6	9.3
2.49	REACT Grp♦	½	...	...	-1.0
37,334.34	**RELX PLC**	1926	+14½	2.1	24.9
5,703.85	**Rightmove**	649½	+7⅛	1.0	34.5
2.34	SpaceandPeople♦	12	...	4.1	-3.7
161.86	STV Group	413	+33	4.8	12.1
26.08	System1 Group♦	207	+5	3.6	18.0
23.32	Totally♦	12¾	...	...	-4.3
10,120.74	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2854¾	+15¼	1.3	14.6
7,460.57	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2802⅞	+35⅞	1.3	14.3
1.55	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	-0.4
0.85	Vintana♦	1	+⅛	...	-0.7
224.15	Wilmington	256	...	3.4	20.2
13,556.72	**WPP**	1077½	+12½	5.5	19.3
670.28	YouGov PLC♦	640	...	0.4	48.4
3.50	Zinc Media♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2

Natural resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2.89	ADM Energy♦	4¾	+⅛	...	3.7
70.18	AFC Energy♦	15½	+1⅜	...	...
5.99	Alba Mineral Res♦	⅛	...	...	...
1.31	Alexander Mining♦	...	...	...	-1.0
2.57	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
3,640.73	Alumina	126⅜	-½	13.6	8.0
232.40	Amerisur Res♦	19	...	...	...
35.82	Aminex	⅞	...	...	-0.9
17.33	Amur Mins Corp♦	2	...	...	-8.4
1.67	Andalas Energy♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
19,602.56	Anglo Amer Plat	7268¾	+65⅜	0.8	28.7
29,851.98	**Ang Am**	2176	+32	3.6	8.6
175.02	Anglo Asian Mng♦	153	+18	3.5	12.4
9,249.31	**Antofagasta**	938⅛	+20⅛	3.6	19.0
25.96	Ariana Res♦	2⅜	+⅛	...	6.2
1.55	Arkle Resources♦	1⅛	...	...	-4.3
14.33	Armadale Cap♦	3½	+¼	...	...
20.18	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	2⅛	+¼	...	-1.6
263.69	Atalaya Mine♦	192	-1½	...	8.6
2.74	Avocet#	13	...	...	-0.2
2.31	Baron Oil♦#	...	...	...	-0.7
31.62	Beowulf Mining♦	5¼	+¼	...	...
1.95	Bezant Res♦	⅛	...	...	-2.4
91,567.36	**BHP Group**	1810¾	+16¾	4.3	13.8
7.02	Border & Sthn Pet♦	1⅜	...	...	-4.5
71.67	Bougainville	17¼	+4¼	...	...
19.45	BowLeven♦	5¾	+⅛	...	-0.3
98,185.94	**BP**	483⅞	-1	6.8	25.5
6.99	Cadence Min♦	6⅜	-⅞	...	-0.7
12.38	Cadogan Petrol	5¼	...	...	3.9
1,207.40	Cairn Energy	204¾	+6⅝	...	-2.6
65.33	Caledonia Mining♦	607	-6	3.6	1.9
146.85	Caspian Sunrise♦	7¾	...	...	...
1,357.09	Centamin	117⅜	+5¾	3.6	32.5
383.65	Cent Asia Metals♦	218	-5½	6.7	9.3
164.55	Chaarat Gold♦	35	+⅞	...	-7.2
11.36	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	3	...	...	-0.9
55.45	China Nonferrous Gold Ltd♦	14½	+1¼	...	-6.6
7.71	Clontarf Energy♦	1	...	...	...
29.20	Columbus Energy♦	3⅜	...	...	...
17.99	Condor Gld♦	19	...	...	-7.9
280.54	DRDGOLD	40¼	+3⅛	...	62.8
3.27	ECR Minerals♦	⅝	...	...	-4.0
36.76	Empyrean Energy♦	8¼	...	...	...
359.51	EnQuest	21⅛	+1⅞	...	2.8
101.69	Eurasia Mining♦	3¾	+⅞	...	...
11.56	Europa Oil&Gas♦	2½	+¼	...	...
5,814.89	**Evraz**	400½	+3½	20.7	4.6
66.54	Exillon Energy#	41⅛	...	...	1.8
913.54	Ferrexpo	155⅛	+4	5.0	2.5
4.35	Firestone Dmds♦	⅝	...	...	-0.4
4,568.74	Fresnillo	620	+38⅜	3.5	30.4
24.11	G3 Exploration	15⅜	-½	...	-1.4
4.44	Galantas Gold♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.2
11.71	GCM Resources♦	11⅞	+⅜	...	-1.9
71.02	Gem Diamonds	51	+1	...	15.8
9.95	GETECH♦	26½	...	...	20.7
31,811.80	**Glencore**	238¾	+2	6.5	43.4
2.79	Global Petrol♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.0
4,199.95	Gold Fields	506¾	+27⅛	0.4	58.6
4.10	Goldplat♦	2⅜	...	...	-1.8
4.05	Goldstone Res♦	1½	...	...	-6.8
64.39	Greatld Gld♦	1¾	...	...	...
118.33	Griffin Mining♦	68½	...	...	12.2
465.20	Gulf Keystone	212	+6	2.6	8.3
3.78	Hardy Oil & Gas	5⅛	-⅞	...	...
697.12	Highlnd Gd Mn♦‡	191½	+19¼	7.0	12.7
863.86	Hochschild	169⅛	+14⅛	1.8	71.7
54.96	Horizonte Minrls♦	3¾	+¼	...	...
74.73	Hummingbird Res♦	21	...	...	-5.4
709.50	Hunting	425	+21⅜	1.6	10.7
2.91	Hydrodec♦	10¼	-1	...	-0.3
29.23	Ilika♦	29	+2	...	...
16.37	Independ Res♦	2¼	+⅛	...	-0.5
521.48	Indus Gas♦	285	+5	...	18.5
11.48	Infrastrata♦	¼	...	...	-3.1
5.08	Ironveld♦	¾	...	...	-8.6
324.25	ITM Power♦	68½	+2½	...	...
42.59	JKX Oil & Gas	24¾	+2½	...	4.6
77.17	Jubilee Metals♦	3¾	...	...	8.1
1.31	Karel Diamd Res♦	3	+¼	...	-3.1
2,579.45	Kaz Minerals	546	+6½	1.7	6.9
15.22	Kefi Minerals♦	1¼	+⅛	...	-0.1
259.89	Kenmare Res	237	+14	...	7.1
133.96	Lamprell	39⅛	+5⅛	...	-1.6
9.13	Landore Res♦	⅝	...	...	-2.3
4.66	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅝	...	...	...
40.15	MC Mining♦	28½	-1½	...	-1.5
23.82	Metals Explorn♦	1⅛	...	...	-0.1
2.07	Nostra Terra♦	1	...	...	-2.1
30.01	Nostrum O&G	16⅛	-⅜	...	-0.2
1.29	Nu-Oil and Gas♦	...	...	...	-0.5
6,034.93	Oil Search	395¾	+5¾	2.0	18.0
5.94	Oilex♦	⅛	...	...	-2.5
2.81	Oriole Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-2.1
12.29	Ormonde Mining♦	2½	+½	...	-5.9
4.81	Orosur Mining♦	3	...	...	-3.9
8.97	Ovoca Bio♦	11	...	...	-4.9
215.59	Pan African Res♦‡	11⅛	+½	...	7.2
79.03	Pantheon Res♦	15⅝	...	...	-6.3
50.54	Parkmead Grp♦	46½	...	...	19.1
74.69	Petra Diamonds	8⅝	...	...	-0.5
41.61	Petrel Resources♦	19½	-2	...	...
25.49	Petro Matad♦	3¾	+½	...	-1.9
1,323.46	Petrofac	382½	+5¼	7.7	7.6
9.37	Petroneft Res♦	1¼	...	...	-1.4
417.75	Petropavlovsk	12½	...	...	6.6
203.13	Pharos Energy	51	+3	10.6	...
529.15	Phoenix Global♦	19	+⅝	...	...
27.62	Plexus Holdings♦	27½	+5½	3.6	-8.8
5,592.89	**Polymetal Intl**	1189½	+41½	3.1	20.4
298.32	Porvair	648	-14	0.7	27.4
809.40	Premier Oil	97¼	+3¾	...	8.7
153.86	Proton Motor Power Systems♦	23	+½	...	-0.4
19.39	Providence Res♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
33.06	Rambler Met&Min♦	2½	...	...	-1.2
2.87	Red Rock Res♦	⅜	...	...	...
0.51	Regency Mines♦	3¼	+3¼	...	-6.4
1.25	Richland Res♦	⅛	...	...	-4.6
20,298.50	Rio Tinto Ltd	5468	-42⅛	4.3	8.8
76,577.91	**Rio Tinto**	4548½	+15½	5.3	7.3
70.04	Rockhopper Expln♦	15¼	+⅛	...	-5.4
2.94	Rose Petroleum♦	1	...	...	-1.9
178,988.18	**Ryl Dtch Sh A**	2265½	+33½	6.7	11.1
179,422.71	**Ryl Dtch Sh B**	2271	+37½	6.7	11.1
126.41	San Leon Energy♦	28	...	...	...
42,599.73	Schlumberger	3077⅛	+64⅞	5.2	-6.2
36.52	Serabi Gold♦	62	-7	...	...
354.94	Serica Energy♦	133	+1¾	...	3.8
75.19	Shanta Gold♦	9½	...	...	...
248.09	Sirius Minerals	3½	...	...	2.9
15.32	Solo Oil♦#	2⅜	...	...	-6.3
21.29	Sound Energy♦	1⅞	-⅛	...	-1.0
0.65	Spitfire Oil♦	2½	+¼	...	-0.9
19.20	Sterling Energy♦	8⅝	...	...	...
3.89	Sunrise Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-3.3
1.01	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
5.17	Thor Mining♦	⅜	...	...	-4.8
109,427.49	Total SA	4230¾	+46⅜	5.5	14.5
4.36	Tower Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.1
31.88	Tri-Star Res♦	33½	...	...	...
911.18	Tullow Oil	64¾	+1⅞	5.9	8.8
1.60	URU Metals♦	205	+5	...	-0.9
28.25	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	-0.8
15.90	Victoria Oil&Gas♦	6⅛	...	...	-1.1
30.31	Volga Gas♦	37½	+4½	26.1	14.8
19.14	W Resources♦	¼	...	...	-5.7
15.65	Westmount Engy♦	14¼	...	...	10.1
2,702.09	Wood Grp (J)	394½	+14⅞	6.9	58.3
27.00	Woodbois♦	5¾	...	...	...
4.28	Xtract Resources♦	⅞	...	...	-5.7
...	ZCI	...	...	...	...

Professional & support services

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
982.99	4imprint Grp	3500	+330	1.5	32.9
354.29	AA	57½	+3½	3.4	6.6
2,193.99	Aggreko	856½	+7⅞	3.1	17.6
261.48	Andrews Sykes♦	620	...	3.8	17.4
11,109.61	**Ashtead**	2446	+11	1.3	14.2
18.27	Asimilar Group♦	19½	...	...	...
43.96	AssetCo♦	360	...	...	33.4
30.47	Avisen♦	27½	...	...	...
111.10	Begbies Traynor♦	87	-¼	2.8	41.4
3.46	Billing Services♦	2	...	...	-0.5
129.25	Blancco Tech♦	171½	-1	...	...
7,129.87	**Bunzl**‡	2117	+66	2.3	21.3
2,778.38	Capita	166½	+2⅜	...	11.6
61.10	Carillion#	14⅛	...	129.9	...
5.36	CEPS♦	31½	...	...	-6.7
31.17	Christie Group♦	117½	+1½	2.5	14.2
30,228.86	**Compass**	1903½	+6	1.9	25.7
86.94	Connect Gp	35	+1⅜	8.8	-2.0
175.64	CPL Resources♦	640	+15	2.1	9.2
6,494.17	**DCC**	6600	+86	2.1	27.2
144.50	De La Rue	139	+8	17.9	46.3
300.07	Dignity	600	-11	4.0	24.3
2,359.91	Diploma‡	2084	+66	1.2	40.9
494.98	Discoverie PLC‡	558	+12	1.7	26.0
36.00	Driver Group♦	69	+4	0.7	0.1
393.02	DWF	123	-1	...	27.3
3,036.15	Electrocompnts‡	680⅜	+25⅜	2.1	20.8
772.82	Equiniti Group	212	+5⅜	2.5	31.1
1,140.61	Essentra	433⅜	+3⅛	4.7	28.7
23,550.26	**Experian**	2593	+36	1.4	40.0
15,884.66	**Ferguson**	7034	+118	2.2	18.8
39.14	FIH Group♦‡	313	...	1.6	13.3
3,357.65	G4S	216⅜	+2⅜	4.4	86.5
40.03	Gattaca♦	124	-1½	...	25.3
10.78	Grafenia♦	9½	...	...	-2.9
91.96	Hargeaves Serv♦	285	-11	2.5	...
2,692.30	Hays	183½	+3¾	2.1	16.7
14.91	HML Hldgs♦	32½	...	1.4	12.0
4,303.40	Homeserve‡	1286	+18	1.6	39.3
172.77	Impellam Grp♦	365	...	...	25.8
44.05	Ince G♦	118	...	5.0	-5.1
9,506.06	**Intertek**	5890	+120	1.6	32.8
3,875.59	IWG	438¼	+18⅛	1.4	36.8
728.43	Johnson Srvce♦	197	-1	1.5	26.6
4.44	JOURNEO♦	54	+2½	...	-5.1
156.85	Kier Gp	96¾	+6⅞	51.7	-0.6
192.04	Latham (J)♦	965	...	1.8	16.0
209.82	Lok'n Store♦‡	709	+7	1.6	61.6
267.30	Lon Security♦	2180	...	3.6	16.4
270.81	LSL Prop Services	260	-4	4.1	27.3
169.65	Macfarlane	107½	...	2.1	18.7
58.29	Maintel Hldgs♦	407	...	8.4	15.0
1.87	Malvern Intl♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
24.34	Management Cns	1½	...	...	...
325.95	Mears Group	295	+10	4.2	13.6
399.87	Menzies (John)	474½	+4	4.3	...
0.57	Mi-Pay Gp♦	1¼	-⅜	...	-3.1
528.78	MITIE Gp‡	144½	+2½	2.7	16.4
3.08	MobilityOne♦	2⅞	...	...	6.1
1.00	Nakama Gp♦	¾	...	...	17.0
7.03	Newmark Sec♦	1½	...	...	35.7
23.15	Norish♦	77	...	1.9	13.0
3.91	Norm Broadbent♦	7¼	...	...	-8.5
13.59	Northern Bear♦	72	...	4.5	5.8
421.68	Northgate‡	316½	+½	5.7	8.9
85.31	NWF Grp♦	175	...	3.6	12.5
1,753.03	PageGroup	533½	+14½	2.4	15.7
14.89	PCI-PAL♦	35	+1	...	-3.4
8.33	Petards♦	14½	-½	...	10.2
2.05	PHSC♦	14	-1	7.1	...
9.32	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅜	...	...	-3.9
14.73	Prime People♦	120½	+6	4.3	10.1
79.42	Record‡	39⅞	+2⅛	5.7	13.6
10.23	RedT Energy♦#	1	...	...	-0.8
387.19	Renew Hldgs♦	514	-14	1.9	17.8
297.65	Renewi‡	37⅛	+3½	3.8	-3.0
8,595.70	**Rentokil Itl**	464¾	+6⅛	0.9	...
684.31	Restore♦	550	+12	1.0	33.5
421.91	Ricardo	790	+40	2.6	21.4
448.23	Robert Walters	590	-8	2.4	12.6
2,342.00	Royal Mail‡	234⅛	-3⅞	10.6	7.2
388.41	RPS Group	171	+1½	5.7	16.6
7.98	RTC Group♦	54½	...	7.0	6.2
1,729.53	RWS Hldgs♦	629	+4	1.1	46.9
100.25	Science Group♦	241	-2	1.9	22.5
2,002.67	Serco Gp	163⅝	+4½	...	36.0
7,055.66	**Smurfit Kappa**	2966	+30	2.9	...
59.28	Staffline Gp♦	86	-1¾	12.2	-1.0
491.09	SThree	370	...	3.9	13.0
27.14	Synectics♦	152½	...	3.0	16.4
5.72	Tanfield♦	3½	+⅞	...	...
40.73	Thruvision Group♦	28	...	...	...
117.75	Tribal♦	59	-1	1.8	25.6
13.66	Universe Grp♦	5¼	...	...	15.0
44.87	Vianet♦‡	157½	-4½	3.6	17.9
377.45	Vp‡	940	+8	3.2	14.9
17.58	Westminster♦	12⅛	-⅛	...	...

Retailing

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
455.48	AO World	95¼	+2¼	...	...
2,778.20	ASOS♦	3309	+115	...	...
4,166.43	B&M European	416⅜	+11⅜	1.8	31.7
430.01	Brown (N)	150¾	+7⅝	4.7	...
69.00	Cambria Auto♦‡	69	+½	1.4	8.2
530.43	Card Factory	155¼	-7¼	5.9	11.0
15.19	Carpetright	5	...	...	-0.6
30.78	CPPGroup♦	3½	...	...	...
812.53	CVS Group♦	1150	+8	0.4	99.1
5,931.63	Dairy Farm Intl	438½	...	3.7	81.8
608.42	DFS Furn‡	286½	-4	...	34.1
2,353.08	Dunelm	1165	+17	2.3	23.3
2,447.63	Frasers Group	469⅛	-5⅜	...	21.8
35.94	French Conn	37⅛	...	...	33.8
2,322.54	Greggs	2296	+24	1.5	30.8
347.26	Halfords‡	174⅜	-4⅜	10.6	8.3
4,042.07	Howden Join	675⅛	+13½	1.7	20.7
2,870.79	Inchcape	718½	+25	3.7	55.7
6.01	IQ-AI	4¼	-⅜	...	...
8,216.03	**JD Sports**‡	844⅛	+24⅛	0.2	31.8
4,642.28	**Kingfisher**	220	+3	4.9	25.2
221.87	Lookers	57	-1	7.1	8.0
4,245.28	Marks Spencer‡	217⅞	+2½	6.2	47.3
4,907.51	**Morrison (W)**	204	+3⅞	3.2	15.8
22.88	Moss Bros	22⅝	-¼	6.6	-5.3
63.61	Mothercare	17	...	...	-0.7
160.22	Naked Wines♦‡	220	-6	0.9	...
9,685.74	**Next**‡	7270	+252	2.2	16.1
9,117.19	**Ocado Gp**	1285½	+60½	...	...
178.81	Pendragon	12¾	+¼	11.7	-0.8
1,384.00	Pets at Home‡	276¾	+1	2.7	27.9
590.73	Saga	52⅝	+3	7.6	-2.8
5,217.55	**Sainsbury J**	235¾	+3	4.6	...
3,053.66	Smith WH	2654	+26	2.0	27.3
2,160.56	Sothebys	4635	...	...	35.9
15.80	Stanley Gbbns♦	3⅝	+⅝	...	-5.9
204.87	Studio Retail Group	237	+4	...	8.7
187.09	Ted Baker	419¾	-23⅜	13.9	...
25,071.35	**Tesco**	256	+4	2.2	19.1
143.40	Topps Tiles‡	73	+⅛	4.6	16.9
466.17	Total Produce♦	120	...	2.5	10.0
4.78	Utd Carpets♦	5⅞	+⅜	7.1	11.5

Technology

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.86	Abal Group♦#	¾	...	...	0.1
39.27	Access Intell♦	51½	...	...	...
360.00	Alfa Financial	120	+2	...	23.0
120.57	Allied Minds	49⅞	+2½	...	2.8
101.12	Amino Techs♦	133	+1	5.6	11.7
359.56	Aptitude Software Group	640	+4	1.1	24.4
7,626.18	**AVEVA Grp**	4722	+54	0.9	...
96.44	Bango♦	136½	+5	...	...
166.87	BATM Adv Coms	37⅞	-1⅛	...	83.1
30.37	Berkeley Res	11¾	...	...	2.2
56.99	Blackbird♦	17	+1½	...	...
14.76	Brady♦	17⅝	...	...	-4.8
32.98	BSD Crown	25½	+½	...	14.4
2.87	CloudBuy♦	2⅛	...	...	-1.4
6.19	CloudCoCo Group♦	1¼	...	...	-0.6
60.29	CML Micro	353	...	2.2	39.7
2,055.68	Computacenter	1801	-7	1.6	25.1
54.18	Concurrent Tech♦	74½	+½	3.0	12.6
30.68	Corero♦	6⅛	+⅝	...	-5.2
643.84	Craneware♦	2400	+110	1.0	55.5
11.44	Crimson Tide♦	2½	+¼	...	86.2
3.83	CyanConn Hldgs♦	2	...	...	-0.9
84.91	D4t4 Solutions♦‡	211	+7½	1.4	26.5
4.52	Dillistone Group♦	23	-1½	...	...
64.15	Elecosoft♦	78	-½	0.8	28.8
1,155.10	FDM Group	1058	-4	2.8	30.0
20.40	Filtronic♦	9½	...	...	...
760.27	First Derivts♦	2820	+90	0.9	55.9
1,512.36	GB Group♦	779	+5	0.3	89.5
83.61	GreshamTech	122½	+16½	0.4	...
12.84	IndigoVision♦	175	...	...	13.5
13.40	Ingenta♦	79½	-11½	1.8	...
24.74	Intercede♦	49	...	...	49.0
414.16	Iomart♦‡	380	...	1.9	30.1
400.72	IQE♦	50¼	+3⅞	...	...
62.06	K3 Business Tch♦	144½	+1	1.0	...
3,356.45	LG Electronics	932	+7⅝	2.8	5.4
3,596.56	Micro Focus Intl	1078¾	+9½	8.1	6.4
32.84	MTI Wireless♦	37½	-1	3.2	14.2
39.21	Nanoco Gp	13⅜	+⅜	...	-9.0
73.31	Nasstar♦	12¾	...	0.7	...
53.86	Netcall♦‡	37½	+4½	1.4	91.4
14.49	Northamber♦‡	53	...	0.3	...
1.17	Online Blockchain♦	13½	-½	...	-2.4
133.16	Oxford Metrics♦‡	106	...	1.4	32.7
10.26	Parity♦	10	+¼	...	...
30.70	Pennant Intl♦	85	...	...	...
1,222.15	Playtech	402¼	+11½	5.3	49.4
45.86	Proactis Hldgs♦	48	...	2.9	9.0
2,069.65	QinetiQ	364⅜	+2⅜	1.7	18.2
236.53	RM	282	-13	2.7	12.7
8,241.84	**Sage Gp**	756¼	+9¾	2.1	26.3
165.57	Seeing Machines♦	4⅞	+⅛	...	-5.2
47.53	Shearwater Grp♦	215	-10	...	...
4.58	SimiGon♦	9	...	...	-5.7
16.81	Smartspace Software♦	59½	...	...	-3.9
2,325.81	Softcat	1172	+46	1.1	34.0
2,770.19	Sophos Gp	562½	+⅜	0.7	...
1,523.24	Spirent Comms	249	+12	1.4	33.7
85.16	SRT Marine♦	55	...	...	23.5
11.79	Tavistock♦	2	...	0.4	...
20,848.26	Tele. Ericsson	678½	+2⅜	1.2	...
209.92	Telit Comms♦	158⅛	-1¾	...	13.0
3.18	Touchstar♦	37½	...	...	-3.6
204.53	Tracsis♦	710	+7½	0.2	41.1
11.49	TRAKm8 Hldgs♦	23	+1	...	-3.7
5.67	Triad Grp	35½	-½	5.6	6.5
59.28	UK Oil & Gas♦	¾	...	...	-2.5
61.15	Wameja♦	5	...	...	-4.0
210.33	WANdisco♦	436	+26	...	-9.9
45.68	Water Intel♦	270	...	...	36.5
42.24	Xaar	54	-2⅜	1.8	-0.6
79.37	Yourgene♦	13¼	...	...	8.2
49.57	Zoo Digital♦	66½	-2½	...	29.5

Telecoms

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
78.93	AdEPT Technology Group♦	333	...	2.9	59.1
19,388.86	**BT Group**‡	196⅛	-8	7.8	9.0
1,708.67	Dixons Carphone‡	147	...	...	6.9
73.58	EVR Holdings♦	5⅛	...	...	-4.8
0.57	Mobile Streams♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
14.43	Mobile Tornado♦	3¾	-⅛	...	...
54.43	MXC Capl♦	81	+1	...	...
1,366.03	TalkTalk	119⅛	+3	2.1	37.2
1,186.15	Telecom Plus	1512	-22	3.4	35.0
40,423.97	**Vodafone Gp**‡	151	+¼	5.2	...

Transport

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
49.78	Air Partner	93	-½	6.0	15.7
66.74	Braemar Ship	211	-6	7.1	...
917.14	Clarkson	3020	+220	2.4	29.4
2,525.27	Dart♦‡	1696	-4	0.6	16.6
5,639.39	**easyJet**	1420½	-8	4.1	16.1
7.22	FastJet♦	⅛	...	...	...
1,590.84	FirstGroup	130⅞	+5¼	...	-6.8
1,034.35	Fisher (James)	2055	+15	1.5	23.3
976.66	Go-Ahead	2262	+110	4.5	16.5
12,501.28	**Intl Cons Air**	630	+1⅛	4.3	6.6
787.13	Irish Cont Uts	417¾	+7⅞	2.7	16.8
2,435.88	Natl Express	476	+7½	3.1	17.2
353.63	Ocean Wilson	1000	+35	5.3	14.3
13,668.42	Ryanair	1239½	-6⅜	...	17.5
2,656.77	Signature Aviation	321	+2⅞	4.2	32.6
895.15	Stagecoach	162⅝	+1	4.7	9.4
423.36	Stobart Gp Ord	113	+3	7.9	-7.0
26.67	Sutton Harbour♦	23	...	...	13.6
374.88	Wincanton‡	301	+2	3.6	9.2
4,044.06	Wizz Air Hldgs	3940	-40	...	12.1

Utilities

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
5,272.24	**Centrica**	90½	+1⅜	13.2	-8.5
1,378.32	ContourGlobal‡	205½	+½	6.5	87.1
1,270.79	Drax Group	320⅜	-8	4.4	46.4
56.90	IGas Energy♦	46½	+¼	...	-2.9
137.57	Jersey Electricity	449	-4	3.3	11.6
3.94	KSK Power Vent#	2¼	...	...	...
1.75	Modern Water♦	1⅜	+¼	...	-0.8
33,460.22	**Natl Grid**‡	961¼	-⅝	4.9	22.5
63.52	OPG Power♦	16⅜	-1⅛	...	3.7
4,323.19	Pennon	1027	+1½	4.0	18.5
4.07	Rurelec♦	⅝	...	...	-1.8
6,058.13	**Severn Trent**‡	2546	+41	3.6	20.3
15,171.84	**SSE**	1467½	+17½	6.6	8.7
6,596.59	**Utd Utilities**‡	967⅜	+17½	4.1	18.1

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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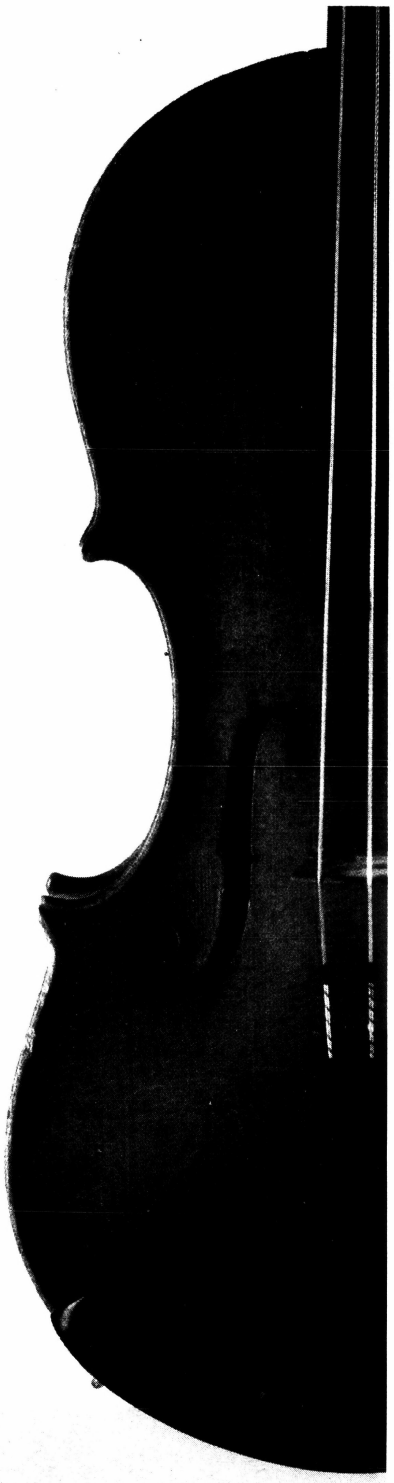

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From Jacques Chirac to Toni Morrison
A year in obituaries
Pages 46-47

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Obituaries

Alasdair Gray

Cussed and eccentric Scottish author and illustrator who championed independence and caused a sensation with his novel Lanark

Alasdair Gray's *Lanark*, published in 1981, has been compared with James Joyce's *Ulysses*. It is a mixture of fictionalised autobiography and dystopian fantasy that Gray spent about 30 years writing and revising. He had been runner-up in an *Observer* short-story competition of 1958 with a story featuring Duncan Thaw, the hero of *Lanark*. That story, slightly tweaked, became chapter 12 of the novel.

Illustrated by Gray himself, *Lanark* is a large and challenging book in four sections that begins with Book Three. It is extravagantly footnoted and flits between a naturalistic narrative set in Glasgow concerning Thaw, a thinly disguised and acutely observed portrait of the author, and a fantasy narrative featuring a character called Lanark, who has a horrible skin condition called "dragonhide" and who inhabits a Glasgow-like town called Unthank.

The effect in total, Gray once said, is to tell the story of a life. More than that, it describes a city. As Thaw explains, Glasgow after the Second World War was not like Paris, London or New York because "nobody imagines living here... Imaginatively Glasgow exists as music hall songs and a few bad novels. That's all we've given to the world. That's all we've given to ourselves."

Irvine Welsh, A L Kennedy and Iain Banks have acknowledged the influence of *Lanark* on their work. Anthony Burgess once described the book as a masterpiece, suggesting that the answer to the question "What is the novel about?" should be "What is Liszt's second *Hungarian Rhapsody* about?"

It is not an answer that has satisfied everybody — Gray's US publisher was sneered at for marketing the book as a science-fiction novel (it promptly sank without trace in the States) — but it is a difficult work to categorise. Although admirers emphasise its humour, to many readers that humour is not always apparent. Nevertheless, *Lanark* has appeared in several editions and is considered a modern classic.

Gray produced about 30 novels and collections, including *Unlikely Stories, Mostly* (1983), his first book of short stories, and *1982, Janine* (1984), which controversially uses pornography as a

Alasdair Gray at work in 1999, and below in 2009. Right, the cover of Lanark

Lanark, published in 1981, has been compared with Joyce's Ulysses

narrative device. Copies of the latter contained an erratum slip that read: "This erratum slip has been inserted by mistake", one of many tricks that Gray enjoyed playing on readers.

The self-appointed guardians of Scottish culture have tended to regard his more sexual works, such as his exploration of sadomasochism in *Something Leather* (1990), as rather unfortunate. *Poor Things* (1992), with its Victorian narrative, won the Whitbread Award and more recently he had been working on an interpretation of Dante's *Inferno*, packed with his own illustrations.

Alasdair James Gray was born in Riddrie, Glasgow, in 1934, the son of Alexander Gray, an industrial blacksmith, and his wife Amy (née Fleming), who died from liver cancer when her son was 17. Alasdair had an older sister whose outgoing nature was in stark contrast to his introspective tendencies. It was a childhood of non-luxury rather than deprivation.

His father was a socialist whose heroes were William Gladstone and Keir Hardie. "From an early age [he] was reading Shaw," said Gray. "And I think Shaw brought him to Ibsen, because he had the Everyman edition of [Charles] Archer's translations, and in the house we had the essays of Macaulay and Carlyle, and he must have been a member of the Left-Wing Book Club because he also had the complete works of Lenin ... Whenever there was a Shaw play in Glasgow we'd go and see it."

In 1940 Alasdair was evacuated into Perthshire, where he developed the lifelong asthma and eczema that he later blamed for his sexual inadequacy. The family then moved to Wetherby in Yorkshire, where he showed remarkable precociousness by adapting part of Homer's *Odyssey* into a school play. After the war the family returned to Glasgow, where he studied at Whitehill Secondary School. Meanwhile, his father made a desk at which Alasdair would sit, ploughing through the dictionary in the belief that if he mastered every word he "would know everything about everything". He made it to the letter C.

He went to Glasgow School of Art from 1952 to 1957, where "the main thing" was getting the chance to draw the nude figure. "I belong to a generation which is shy of being suspected of homosexuality," he said. "I found it easier to draw women that way than men." He stayed on as a lecturer until 1962.

While a student he created a set of murals, *The Horrors of War*, for the Scotland-USSR Society in Glasgow. He also painted a mural entitled *The Seven Days of Creation* for Greenhead Church in Bridgeton, Glasgow, which was destroyed when the church was demolished in the late 1950s for a motorway that was never built. Its creation is described in *Lanark* and a version appears on the cover of the 20th-anniversary edition. He painted another mural, *Arcadia*, in the Ubiquitous Chip restaurant in Glasgow, in return for £500 of meals.

In 1961 Gray married Inge Sorenson, a Danish nurse eight years his junior whom he had met while performing Victorian melodramas at a CND night during the Edinburgh Fringe and whose nude portrait he painted while she was pregnant. It was a stormy marriage and they separated in 1970. In 1991, after 20 years spent largely in "a sexual wilderness", he married Morag McAlpine who, he said, "didn't want to be drawn, painted or photographed at all, because she disliked her appearance". Morag died in 2014 and he is survived by a son from his first marriage, Andrew, who became a physiotherapist in the United States.

The path of love was not always smooth and in 2014 Gray revealed that unrequited love laid behind "three rather half-hearted attempts at suicide" before he achieved literary success. After the publication of *Lanark*, Gray found women "throwing themselves at him for the first time in his life", according to Rodge Glass, whose intimate account of the writer's life, *A Secretary's Biography*, was published in 2008. According to Glass, in 1981 Gray was involved with two women in a week for the first time in his life.

In 2011, when the opening day of the Edinburgh International Book Festival was timed to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Lanark*, the writer responded with typical cussedness. True, he turned up, but he largely refused to talk about *Lanark* or its impact.

Money was always important and on one occasion Gray spoke of having rejected a knighthood from Gordon Brown's administration "because there was no money attached". Asked what advice he had for young artists, he suggested taking in lodgers "because in that way you'll be sure of a steady income and that might give you the chance of concentrating on your art". It did not go down well, he recalled.

Yet it was advice that he followed. In the mid-1980s he would informally sublet rooms in his council flat in Vinicombe Street to friends, one of whom hosted meals and small parties for her student colleagues that Gray often attended. He was a man with occasional raw edges, but one who never felt the need to overwhelm the young with his considerable knowledge, and he would let extravagant assertions fly past with no more than a raised eyebrow.

By the end of the 20th century Gray — fat, spectacled, balding and increasingly old, as his own cover blurb said (and a seasoned drinker who regularly held court in the pubs of the West End of Glasgow) — had become Scotland's senior literary figure. He was a committed nationalist and his small book, with the self-explanatory title of *Why Scots Should Rule Scotland* (1992), reinforced those views among like-minded people. For many he was a prophet of the democratic, socialist Scotland that would emerge with the new devolved Scottish parliament that first met in 1999.

He provoked a storm in 2013 when he defined English incomers as either "settlers" or "colonists", expanding on this by criticising the number of English

His motto was: 'Work as if you live in the early days of a better nation'

people in top Scottish arts positions. "The Scots bodies who appoint heads of department are 'Scotophobic' when it comes to their own kind," he said. "I think it is because we think that Scottish artists won't be as manageable."

After the divisive referendum of 2014 he declared himself cheery about the result, despite its rejection of what he stood for. "Each referendum has seen an increase, from my point of view, towards independence. And to say there won't be another referendum at least till the next generation is just stupid." He even suggested that a popular uprising might be the way forward, adding: "No taxation without representation ... I believe the United States of America was created by protest against something of that kind."

His essay *Self Portrait*, published in 1988, was brutally honest: "I have the lean, muscular legs and small bum of the brisk pedestrian, but the bulging paunch of the heavy drinker, the fleshy shoulders hunched too near the ears of the asthmatic with the bronchial tendencies. The neck is thick; hands and feet and genitals small ..."

Although Gray's work has largely disappeared from airport bookshops, he remained a giant among the Scottish literati, continuing to work from his wheelchair after a stroke. His oft-quoted motto, inscribed in books, on paintings and even engraved on the wall of the Scottish parliament, was: "Work as if you live in the early days of a better nation." And that he undoubtedly did.

Alasdair Gray, artist and writer, was born on December 28, 1934. He died from a stroke on December 29, 2019, aged 85

Register

A year in obituaries, from Jacques

The final instalment of our three-part round-up of notable people who died in 2019, including leading figures in the worlds of film, music, politics, science, art, entertainment, business, sport, food and literature

Jacques Chirac in 2007. He served as president and prime minister of France

PETER SISSONS,
journalist and broadcaster, was born on July 17, 1942. He died of undisclosed causes on October 1, 2019, aged 77

In 1968 Peter Sissons, a foreign correspondent for ITN, was badly wounded during the Nigerian civil war. He never threw away the fragments of bullet that had penetrated his legs. They helped him to keep perspective as he deflected the criticism he attracted during his acclaimed 45-year career on television.

From 1982-89 he presented *Channel 4 News*, jutting his head forward during hard-hitting interviews. The BBC later offered him a purported £500,000 to present *Question Time*, making him the highest-paid television presenter after Michael Aspel and Terry Wogan.

To his fury he was attacked for wearing a burgundy rather than a black tie while announcing the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 2002. Sissons, a bus conductor in his pre-journalism days, believed that standards had slipped in modern newsrooms. In his autobiography he accused the BBC of having a left-wing bias "written through its very DNA".

POLLY HIGGINS,
environmentalist and lawyer, was born on July 4, 1968. She died of lung cancer on April 21, 2019, aged 50

When Polly Higgins realised that the Earth, being injured, needed a good lawyer, she quit her job as a barrister, sold her house and took a year out to contemplate her epiphany.

She concluded that the answer to limiting the worst environmental damage was to inscribe a duty of care to nature in international law. Convinced that such a law would persuade companies to swap destructive habits for environmentally friendly ones, Higgins wrote books about ecocide or "the extensive loss, damage to or destruction of ecosystems of a given territory such that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants has been or will be severely diminished".

Higgins gave legal advice to members of Extinction Rebellion. Shortly before the group began its occupation of central London she was diagnosed with lung cancer. She was overjoyed, two days before her death, to hear that the protesters had sprayed the Shell Building with the words "For Polly".

FRANK DOBSON,
politician, was born on March 15, 1940. He died of heart failure on November 11, 2019, aged 79

Frank Dobson had the rare distinction of making Alan Clark blush. The roguish Conservative MP wrote in his diaries of the Labour politician that his stories were "so filthy that really they're unusable, even at a rugger club dinner".

The short and portly self-confessed "pragmatic left-winger" needed all his reserves of humour as health secretary during the first two and a half years of the New Labour government.

Spending limits imposed by Gordon Brown, the chancellor, stymied Dobson's enthusiasm for reversing the previous government's policies of an internal health market. Waiting lists grew, and Dobson alienated senior doctors and surgeons with his blunt responses.

Some, however, found his straightforward approach refreshing. When he was due to visit one hospital in the Midlands, a tightly stage-managed visit was arranged for 11am. Instead, as a nurse recalled: "Frank rocked up at 10am, unaccompanied, but just in time to witness abusive members of the public screaming and swearing at a junior doctor and others complaining about the waits. A flustered manager and police escort turned up at 11am to find he had seen what he wanted... and gone."

In parliament Dobson was an erudite, aggressive debater — an exasperated John Major once compared him to an "agitated parrot with constipation".

JEANIE, COUNTESS OF CARNARVON, OBE,
was born on April 19, 1935. She died of frailty of old age on April 11, 2019, aged 83

Jeanie Carnarvon's life resembled a plot line from *Downton Abbey*: the American-born descendant of British aristocracy who grows up in the Wild West, finds her own lord, marries in a society wedding in New York and settles in a British castle, counting the Queen among her friends. In Carnarvon's case she was chatelaine of the real Downton Abbey — Highclere Castle in Hampshire, known to television viewers as the home of the Earl and Countess of Grantham in Julian Fellowes's drama.

Born in Big Horn, Wyoming, she was the granddaughter of the 8th Earl of Portsmouth. In 1954 she met Henry Herbert, Lord Porchester or "Porchy", only son and heir of the 6th Earl of Carnarvon. Shortly afterwards he flew to Wyoming to propose to Jeanie, who never lost her soft American accent. Porchy died in 2001, so did not live to see *Downton Abbey*, but Jeanie delighted in watching Maggie Smith play the Dowager Countess.

Toni Morrison, the author, in 1979

HENRI BELOLO,
record producer, was born on November 27, 1936. He died of undisclosed causes on August 3, 2019, aged 82

Henri Belolo jotted on the back of a napkin a list of the fantasy characters he thought might appeal in a pop group aimed at the gay disco market. The leather-clad biker with a horseshoe moustache, police officer, Native American chief in flamboyant headdress, construction worker, rugged cowboy and muscle-toned military figure he imagined would eventually become Village People.

With hits including *YMCA*, *In the Navy* and *Go West*, they sold 100 million records. The French Belolo had been introduced to New York's gay discotheques by his homosexual business partner, Jacques Morali, and named the group after Greenwich Village's sizeable gay community to champion LGBT rights. He said: "I did not like that American bigotry and hypocrisy."

HANS RAUSING,
Swedish industrialist, was born on March 25, 1926. He died of natural causes on August 30, 2019, aged 93

The sight of Hans Rausing squeezing his 6ft 8in frame into a battered Morris Minor to shop at his local Costcutter in East Sussex was somewhat deceptive. Although he liked to be seen to live simply, he belonged to a family of Swedish entrepreneurs so wealthy that in 1994 they topped *The Sunday Times Rich List* with £9.6 billion, deposing the Queen.

Their fortune derived from Tetra Pak (now Tetra Laval), a firm based on the success of a four-way, plastic-coated, glued, laminated paperboard carton for milk and other liquids. Appointed managing director in 1954, Rausing expanded the company across Europe and the US and into the Soviet Union. By 1977 Tetra Pak was producing 20 billion cartons a year. Rausing gave millions to charity.

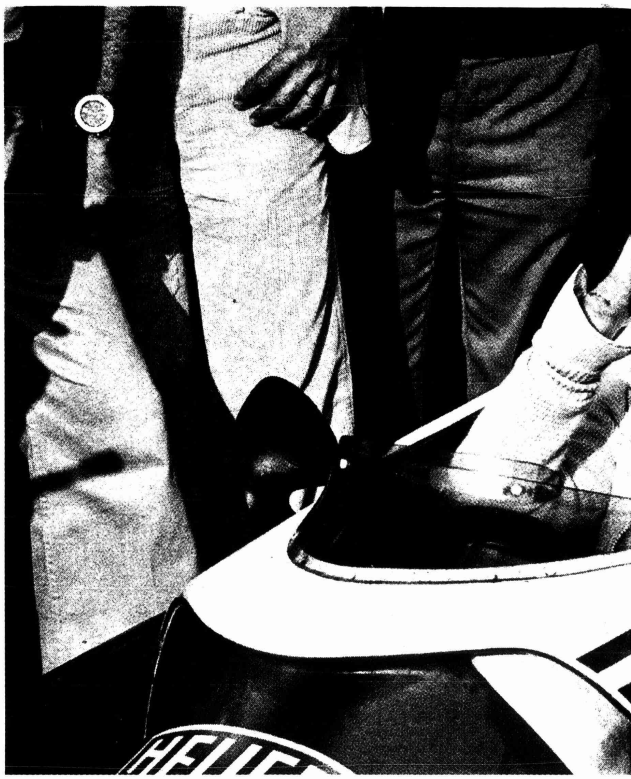
"We didn't have cooks or chauffeurs," his daughter Lisbet recalled. "My brother and sister and I had the same pocket money as everyone else, and we went to normal village schools."

LORD BELL,
advertising executive, was born on October 18, 1941. He died after a long illness on August 25, 2019, aged 77

Tim Bell, "Mrs Thatcher's favourite adman", inspired the advertising campaign that brought Margaret Thatcher to power at the 1979 general election, with slogans including "Labour isn't working".

Brilliant, confident and exuding energy, the chain-smoking Bell held robust right-wing opinions. He occasionally represented dictators, including Augusto Pinochet of Chile.

Yet behind the ready smiles and flamboyance was volatility and insecurity. Of his red Ferrari Bell declared: "I enjoy being stared at and seeing the car admired." His habit of taking cocaine made a "good man great", he claimed. A photograph signed "From Margaret, with love" adorned his office at Bell Pottinger Communications.



Jessye Norman, the opera singer, as Ariadne auf Naxos in New York in 1984

JESSYE NORMAN,
opera singer, was born on September 15, 1945. She died of septic shock and multiple organ failure on September 30, 2019, aged 74

Jessye Norman's perfectly tuned voice was neither that of a soprano nor a mezzo. Instead, it spread gloriously across both ranges. "Pigeonholes are only comfortable for pigeons," she'd reply crisply when quizzed on the topic.

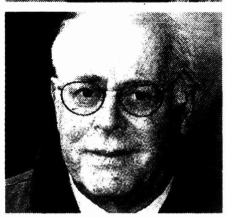
One of opera's highest-paid stars, Norman sang for the Queen on her 60th birthday. In France she became a national icon after performing *La Marseillaise* on the 200th anniversary of Bastille Day and she adored being saluted with the words "Bonjour, chère Jessye" by French train conductors. In the US she sang at the funeral of Jacqueline Kennedy.

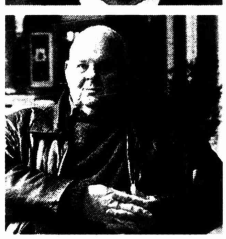
Off stage, she campaigned for disadvantaged children in her home town of Augusta in Georgia, where as a schoolgirl she had sung in assemblies of 1,700 pupils without a microphone.

LES MURRAY,
poet, was born on October 17, 1938. He died on April 29, 2019, aged 80

Les Murray was brought up in a shack in New South Wales that let in the rain. He skipped school to read in creeks, but astonished his teachers on the days he attended. Teased as a "fatso", he

Chirac to Toni Morrison





Clockwise, from main picture: Niki Lauda, the racing driver, at the wheel in 1976; Polly Higgins, the lawyer; Clive Swift, the actor; Les Murray, the poet

retreated into books, devouring Milton's complete works in a single weekend. Having a gift for European languages, he won a Commonwealth scholarship to the University of Sydney, but became a rough sleeper.

It was poetry that saved him. The future critic and broadcaster Clive James published Murray's early verse in the student newspaper. Ted Hughes nominated him for the 1998 Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, which he won.

Murray, a Catholic who devoted all his poems "to the glory of God", never forgot the sight of an indigenous Australian removing his hat to bow towards the funeral cortège of his mother. In later life he was a spokesman for the rights of aboriginal people.

TONI MORRISON,
author, was born on February 18, 1931. She died from complications of pneumonia on August 5, 2019, aged 88

Toni Morrison began to write as her marriage broke down "like someone with a dirty habit," she said. "Secretly, compulsively, slyly."

A mother of two boys, she rose each day at 4am to write before she began her job as a fiction editor at Random House, where she championed black women writers such as Angela Davis.

"I was able to do it because of the history of black women," she told *The Times*. "I had seen people who had got through with much more courage than I ever mustered."

By the time she published her fifth novel, *Beloved*, in 1987, and became an international literary superstar, Morrison had already won a clutch of prizes and quit her job. Five years later she became the first African-American to receive the Nobel prize for literature.

With her silver dread-crown, lightning intellect and air of magnanimous ghostly melodrama, Morrison cut an imperious figure. Her objective was to centralise through fiction African-American life and history. "What was driving me to write was the silence. So many stories untold and unexamined," she told *The New Yorker*.

NIKI LAUDA,
racing driver and entrepreneur, was born on February 22, 1949. He died in his sleep on May 20, 2019, aged 70

Niki Lauda was not expected to survive being trapped for 55 seconds in a burning cockpit after crashing his car at the 1976 German grand prix. The insensitivity of a priest administering the last rites saved him. When the clergyman said, "Goodbye, my friend," a furious Lauda thought: "Now I really am going to stay alive."

The story exemplified the cussed determination of a man who six weeks later was back in a car to race for Ferrari at Monza, after refusing plastic surgery to reconstruct his right ear.

Nicknamed "the rat", the slight Lauda was initially judged to lack the machismo of the archetypal racing driver. Yet at the age of 26 he won the first of three world championships.

"I believe in living a life that involves a lot of risk," he said. "If you don't take risks, you can't ever expect it to be a success. It would all be far too boring."

ANTHONY MANCINELLI,
barber, was born on March 2, 1911. He died of cancer on September 19, 2019, aged 108

When an 11-year-old Anthony Mancinelli started cutting people's hair in 1922, barbers still offered customers bloodletting with leeches. One of eight children, he began cutting hair to bring extra cash to the family purse because his father earned only $25 a week.

Rising at 4am for the first of two daily paper rounds, Mancinelli learnt his craft in a barber's shop after school. "I've been at work ever since," the Italian-born New Yorker explained. As a spring chicken of 96, he was recognised as the oldest working barber by *Guinness World Records*.

JACQUES CHIRAC,
politician, was born on November 29, 1932. He died after a long decline on September 26, 2019, aged 86

Jacques Chirac was nicknamed "le bulldozer" for his ability to get things done. He was tall, debonair and resourceful, and while prime minister of France he had privatised big banks, cut payroll and other taxes, and sought to reduce the power of the state.

He reinvented himself many times during a 40-year career in politics, including 12 years as president and four as prime minister. "Jacques is like le beaujolais," an aide quipped. "They send us a new one every year."

Rawly ambitious, Chirac also had a social conscience. During his 18-year tenure as mayor of Paris he introduced programmes for the elderly, the disabled and single mothers and was known as "le Maire Soleil". On impulse, he unofficially adopted a Vietnamese refugee, who had arrived in Paris destitute, as his "third daughter".

Alan Turing, the codebreaker, in 1951

Chirac was a notorious womaniser, whose amorous habits were summarised by his female members of staff as "three minutes, shower included". Never frugal, he splurged the equivalent of £400 a day on food for his family while mayor. Holidays to Japan, a nation he adored, were paid for out of a slush fund.

As president he oversaw the replacement of the franc by the euro and in 2003 he defied Washington by warning that France would veto a UN resolution threatening war against Iraq. His approval ratings soared for standing up to "les Anglo-Saxons" and impeding the rush to war. Five years later, after his resignation, Chirac was convicted of diverting public funds during his time as mayor of Paris.

Not short on ego, he could be patronising. During tough negotiations with Margaret Thatcher he once asked: "What more does this housewife want of me — my balls on a plate?"

NAN WINTON,
television presenter, was born on November 6, 1925. She died on May 11, 2019, aged 93

In June 1960 Nan Winton became the first woman to present the BBC television news at 6pm. Known as "Newsgirl Nan", she became the subject of articles lamenting that she concealed most of her "stunning" figure behind her desk.

In March 1961 Winton was fired by a BBC Television executive, who did not give her a reason. "I was furious," she said later.

Subsequently she moved to ITV. "I believe there is certainly discrimination against women in this country," Winton said in 1964, adding: "There were times when I was doing the announcing when I wanted to shout aloud like Shylock, 'Hath not a woman eyes, ears, senses?'"

SYDNEY BRENNER, CH, FRCP, FRS,
molecular biologist, was born on January 13, 1927. He died of respiratory-related illness on April 5, 2019, aged 92

Sydney Brenner was generally acclaimed as a genius: he could look at a printout of a protein sequence of amino acids and recite their genetic codes.

In 2002 he received the Nobel prize in physiology or medicine for mapping the entire nervous system of a tiny nemotode worm, once telling a rapt audience of scientists as he showed a large picture of the wriggly organism: "There are vertebrates, invertebrates and PERVERT-ebrates. This is a hermaphrodite worm with occasional males."

Brenner's work has since been cited as the basis for modern research into the molecular structure of genes and our understanding of how living organisms work.

CLIVE SWIFT,
actor, was born on February 9, 1936. He died after a short illness on February 1, 2019, aged 82

A quarter of a century after Clive Swift played Richard Bucket, the long-suffering downtrodden husband of Patricia Routledge's matronly snob Hyacinth in the television series *Keeping Up Appearances*, people were still offering him marital advice when he walked down the street.

On one occasion a lorry driver pulled up beside him at a traffic light and wound down his window to shout: "Why don't you leave the old cow?"

A serious actor who had been handpicked by Sir Peter Hall to be one of the original members of the Royal Shakespeare Company, he did not welcome such reactions.

"Sometimes I tell them to f*** off," he said. "They expect me to be as nice and placid as Richard, and I'm really not like that."

JEREMY HARDY,
comedian, was born on July 17, 1961. He died from oesophageal cancer on February 1, 2019, aged 57

"People listen to me on the radio and think of me as a tall, handsome, Afro-Caribbean woman because they haven't got a picture in their head of who I am," Jeremy Hardy declared.

In fact the comedian was Caucasian, short, thin, and dressed in what a friend termed "1990s hip". He infinitely preferred radio to television.

A frequent panellist on BBC Radio 4 programmes including *The News Quiz* and *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*, Hardy entertained, charmed and infuriated in equal measure.

He had become a socialist aged ten and there often seemed to be a political message even in his most gentle jokes: "My daughter wanted a new pair of trainers. I told her, 'You're 11, make your own!'"

ALAN TURING, OBE, FRS,
mathematician, was born on June 23, 1912. He took his own life on June 7, 1954, aged 41

The original *Times* obituary of Alan Turing in 1954 was a mere five paragraphs. To mark the news that the enigmatic genius will appear on the new £50 note, *The Times* revisited the obituary in July. The original skipped lightly over the brilliant mathematician's groundbreaking work in the top-secret hut 8 at Bletchley Park.

By 1942 Turing had cracked the codes of the German Enigma machine encrypting the Nazis' military manoeuvres. Once deciphered, they revealed the exact location of every submarine in Hitler's U-boat fleet.

A letter recently published in this newspaper (July 17, 2019) said that those he worked with remembered him as a "youthful, eccentric and donnish figure… with his trousers allegedly held up with string". He was an eccentric man who cycled to work wearing a gas mask to fend off hay fever.

Turing and his colleagues later created the "bombe machine" to crack more encoded German military secrets. They passed such information swiftly to British military intelligence. Until 1974, however, the work of Bletchley Park was an official secret.

By then Turing was largely forgotten, as was his research at the dawn of modern computing at the University of Manchester. He foresaw the day when a computer might write a sonnet — albeit a bad one.

There was another aspect of Turing omitted from the original *Times* obituary: his homosexuality. He led a double life: by day, the respected academic, by night he cruised the "Manchester milk bar". This emerged when he mentioned Arnold Murray, his lover, while reporting a burglary at his home in 1952.

Turing was charged in court with "gross indecency… with a male person". To avoid jail he was required to undergo chemical castration, a treatment believed to reduce homosexual urges. Humiliated, he took his own life in 1954, after eating an apple soaked in cyanide, a nod to the poisoned apple in his favourite film, *Snow White*.

All this is now widely known. In 2013 Turing received a posthumous royal pardon for his conviction.

Register

Births, Marriages and Deaths www.newsukadvertising.co.uk

SIMEON took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God: "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel." Luke 2.28-32 (GNB)

Forthcoming Marriages

MR N. BURMESTER AND MISS K.J. REID
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Burmester of Brisbane and Kendall, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Reid of the Hunter Valley.

Deaths

BELOE Sheila died peacefully on 15th December 2019, aged 95. Wife of the late John (Putch) Beloe and formerly of John Arrowsmith. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at Holy Trinity Church, Eccleshall, Staffs at 2.45 pm. No flowers please. Enq to J.R. Williams F.D. Market Drayton Tel: 01630 654490

KEEFFE Barrie died on 10th December 2019, aged 74 -playwright and screenwriter.Beloved husband of Jacky and stepfather to Sam and Tom Proud. Funeral at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, WC2 9 ED on 7th December. 3.00pm. Funeral Directors Levertons 0207 387 6075

SKINNER Jill (née Tuckett) died peacefully on 13th December 2019, aged 84 Much loved wife to Keith and dear mother to James and Ian. Loving granny to Henry, Anna, Alexander, Freddie and Violet. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service to take place at 12 noon Thursday 9th January at the Waveney Memorial Crematorium, Warren's Lane, Benacre Road, Ellough, Suffolk NR34 7XE

PALMER

Andrew Clennel died peacefully on 21st December 2019, aged 81. FRS, FREng, FICE Emeritus Professor of Petroleum Engineering, Cambridge University and National University of Singapore. Beloved husband of Jane, father of Emily.

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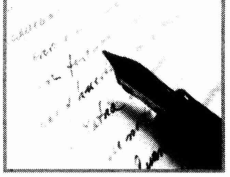

THE TIMES

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Legal Notices

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- Social events and dining opportunities.

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Law Report

Funding not 'material' to application

Supreme Court
Published: December 30, 2019

R (Wright) v Resilient Energy Severndale Ltd and another

Before Baroness Hale of Richmond, Lord Reed, Lord Lloyd-Jones, Lord Sales and Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd
[2019] UKSC 53
Judgment: November 20, 2019

A planning authority should not have had regard to a developer's offer to use a proportion of the turnover to be derived from a proposed wind turbine development to fund local community projects when considering whether to grant it planning permission for the development. Such an offer, if not pursuing an actual planning purpose, was not a "material consideration" for the authority to have regard to.

The Supreme Court so held in dismissing an appeal by a developer, Resilient Energy Severndale Ltd (Resilient), and a local planning authority, Forest of Dean district council, against the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McFarlane, Lord Justice Davis and Lord Justice Hickinbottom) ([2018] JPL 672) upholding the order of Mr Justice Dove ([2016] JPL 1235) granting a judicial review application by a local resident, Peter Wright, to quash a grant of planning permission to Resilient for the installation of a wind turbine.

Mr Martin Kingston, QC, and **Ms Jenny Wigley** for Resilient. **Mr Paul Cairnes, QC**, and **Mr James Corbet Burcher** for the local planning authority. **Mr Neil Cameron, QC**, and **Mr Zack Simons** for Mr Wright; **Mr Richard Kimblin, QC**, for the secretary of state for housing, communities and local government, intervening.

Lord Sales, with whom the other members of the court agreed, said that the case concerned a challenge by Mr Wright to the grant of planning permission for the change of use of land at Severndale Farm, Tidenham, Gloucestershire, from agriculture to the erection of a single community-scale 500kW wind turbine for the generation of electricity.

The proposed development was not in accordance with the development plan for the area.

In its application for planning permission, Resilient proposed that the wind turbine be erected and run by a community benefit society, which would make an annual donation to a local community fund, to be allocated to community causes by a panel of local people. In deciding to grant planning permission for the development the council expressly took into account the community fund donation and imposed a condition that it should be part of the scheme.

Mr Wright challenged the grant of planning permission on the grounds that the promised community fund donation was not a material planning consideration for the purposes of section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Section 70(2) required a planning authority to have regard to the development plan and certain other matters "so far as material to the application" and to "any other material considerations": that was to say, material to the change of use that was proposed.

Similarly, in relation to an application for planning permission, the "material considerations" referred to in section 38(6) of the 2004 act were considerations material to the change of use that was proposed.

In *Newbury District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment* ([1981] AC 578) Viscount Dilhorne had treated the scope of the concept of "material considerations" in the statutory predecessor to section 70(2) as the same as the ambit of the power of a local planning authority to impose conditions on the grant of planning permission.

He said, at page 599, "the conditions imposed must be for a planning purpose and not for any ulterior one, and... they must fairly and reasonably relate to the development permitted. Also they must not be so unreasonable that no reasonable planning authority could have imposed them..."

It was logical to equate the ambit of "material considerations" with the ambit of the power to impose planning conditions, since if a local planning authority had power to impose a particular planning condition as the basis for its grant of permission, it would follow that it could treat the imposition of that condition as a material factor in favour of granting permission.

The relevance of the *Newbury* criteria to determine the ambit of "material considerations" in what was now section 70(2) and section 38(6) was well established in case law.

It followed that a condition or undertaking that a landowner pay money to a fund to provide for general community benefits unrelated to the proposed change in the character of the use of the development land did not have a sufficient connection with the proposed development as to qualify as a "material consideration" in relation to it.

His Lordship said that a principled approach to identifying material considerations in line with the *Newbury* criteria was important as a protection for landowners and as a protection for the public interest.

It prevented a planning authority from extracting money or other benefits from a landowner as a condition for granting permission to develop its land, when such payment or the provision of such benefits had no sufficient connection with the proposed use of the land.

It also prevented a developer from offering to make payments or provide benefits that had no sufficient connection with the proposed use of the land, as a way of buying a planning permission that it would be contrary to the public interest to grant according to the merits of the development.

That protection for landowners on the one hand and for the public interest on the other had been established by parliament through statute, as interpreted by the courts.

In the present case, the community benefits promised by Resilient did not satisfy the *Newbury* criteria and hence did not qualify as a material consideration within the meaning of that term in section 70(2) and section 38(6).

The benefits were not proposed as a means of pursuing any proper planning purpose. They did not affect the use of the land. Instead, they were proffered as a general inducement to the council to grant planning permission and constituted a method of seeking to buy the permission sought, in breach of the principle that planning permission cannot be bought or sold.

The appellants had submitted that the planning statutes had to be regarded as "always speaking" so far as concerned what counted as a "material consideration", so that the meaning of the concept should be updated in line with changing government policy (including that aimed at securing local community acceptance and support for onshore wind energy developments).

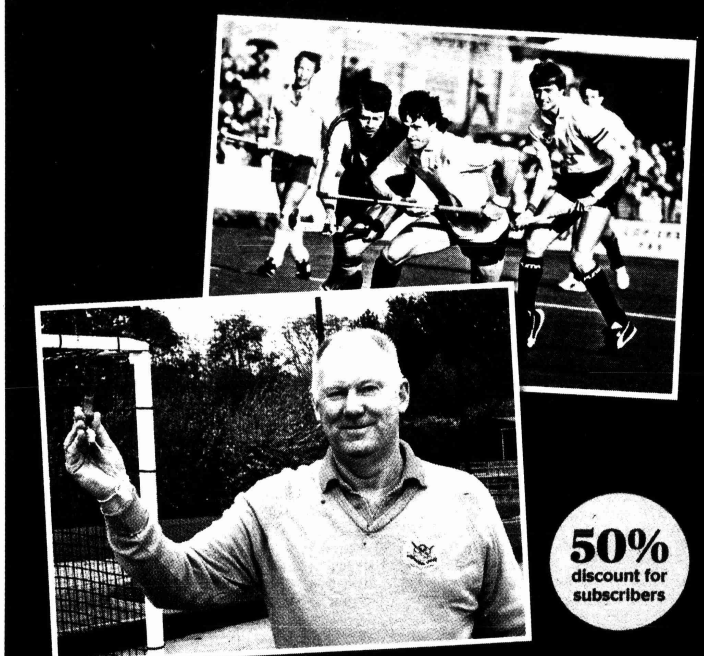
His Lordship did not agree. The meaning of the term "material consideration" in section 70(2) and section 38(6) was not in doubt. Updating the established meaning of the term was neither required nor appropriate.

To say that the meaning of the term changed according to what was said by ministers in policy statements would undermine the position, as explained above, that what qualified as a "material consideration" was a question of law on which the courts had already provided authoritative rulings.

The interpretation given to that statutory term by the courts provided a clear meaning that was principled and stable over time. The grant of planning permission in the present case had rightly been quashed.

Solicitors: **Burges Salmon LLP**, Bristol; **Solicitor, Forest of Dean District Council**; **Harrison Grant**; **Treasury Solicitor**.

Readers' Lives



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Umpire at six hockey World Cups who was known as The Big Man

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THE TIMES

Court Circular

Sandringham, Norfolk
29th December, 2019
Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.
The Bishop of Norwich preached the Sermon.

Today Mainly dry in England and Wales with sunny spells, patchy rain across Scotland. Max 11C (52F), min -3C (27F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr* yesterday
Aberdeen	**	**	**	**
Aberporth	9	DU	0.0	0.0
Anglesey	9	DU	0.0	0.0
Aviemore	11	DU	0.8	0.0
Barnstaple	10	PC	0.0	**
Bedford	8	PC	0.0	**
Belfast	11	PC	0.0	0.0
Birmingham	7	DU	0.0	**
Bournemouth	9	DU	0.0	0.0
Bridlington	**	**	0.0	**
Bristol	9	DU	0.0	0.1
Camborne	10	B	0.0	0.0
Cardiff	10	S	0.0	0.0
Edinburgh	11	S	0.0	0.0
Eskdalemuir	7	D	3.6	0.0
Glasgow	10	PC	1.0	0.0
Hereford	9	PC	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	8	C	0.0	0.0
Ipswich	6	PC	0.0	0.0
Isle of Man	11	PC	0.0	0.0
Isle of Wight	8	DU	0.0	**
Jersey	7	PC	0.0	0.0
Keswick	10	PC	0.0	**
Kinloss	13	C	0.0	0.0
Leeds	7	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	**	PC	6.6	0.0
Leuchars	11	S	0.0	0.5
Lincoln	8	C	0.0	0.0
Liverpool	9	C	0.0	**
London	8	B	0.0	0.0
Lyneham	7	DU	0.0	0.0
Manchester	8	PC	0.0	0.0
Margate	7	PC	0.0	0.0
Milford Haven	9	DU	0.0	**
Newcastle	10	PC	0.0	**
Nottingham	7	DU	0.0	0.0
Orkney	11	B	2.2	0.0
Oxford	8	DU	0.0	**
Plymouth	10	B	0.0	**
Portland	8	DU	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	10	DU	0.0	**
Shoreham	8	DU	0.0	0.0
Shrewsbury	8	PC	0.0	0.0
Snowdonia	7	DU	0.0	**
Southend	8	PC	0.0	0.0
South Uist	10	DU	8.4	**
Stornoway	10	SH	8.0	0.0
Tiree	10	DU	3.6	0.0
Whitehaven	8	DU	0.0	0.3
Wick	11	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	9	DU	0.0	0.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	15	B	Madeira	24	S
Amsterdam	3	S	Madrid	13	S
Athens	8	B	Mallorca	15	B
Auckland	20	S	Malaga	15	PC
Bahrain	23	S	Malta	11	PC
Bangkok	31	S	Melbourne	30	S
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	22	B
Barcelona	13	B	Miami	27	B
Beijing	3	S	Milan	5	B
Beirut	15	R	Mombasa	32	B
Belgrade	0	SN	Montreal	4	PC
Berlin	2	S	Moscow	-3	SN
Bermuda	20	B	Mumbai	30	S
Bordeaux	4	FG	Munich	0	S
Brussels	4	S	Nairobi	25	B
Bucharest	3	B	Naples	9	PC
Budapest	2	S	New Orleans	23	C
Buenos Aires	29	S	New York	11	B
Cairo	18	PC	Nice	15	PC
Calcutta	19	S	Nicosia	18	PC
Canberra	33	S	Oslo	4	DU
Cape Town	28	S	Paris	4	S
Chicago	4	S	Perth	25	B
Copenhagen	3	PC	Prague	0	PC
Corfu	13	S	Reykjavik	4	B
Delhi	11	FG	Riga	-2	PC
Dubai	25	PC	Rio de Janeiro	30	PC
Dublin	12	B	Riyadh	22	S
Faro	16	S	Rome	10	S
Florence	10	S	San Francisco	12	PC
Frankfurt	2	S	Santiago	32	S
Geneva	3	B	São Paulo	28	B
Gibraltar	16	B	Seoul	6	C
Harare	28	B	Seychelles	30	PC
Helsinki	1	SL	Singapore	30	PC
Hong Kong	17	R	St Petersburg	-4	DU
Honolulu	29	PC	Stockholm	1	M
Istanbul	5	R	Sydney	28	S
Jerusalem	19	PC	Tel Aviv	19	PC
Johannesburg	19	B	Tenerife	26	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tokyo	9	PC
Lanzarote	21	S	Vancouver	6	C
Las Palmas	22	S	Venice	5	S
Lima	20	C	Vienna	1	B
Lisbon	15	S	Warsaw	0	B
Los Angeles	17	PC	Washington	18	B
Luxor	19	S	Zurich	0	B

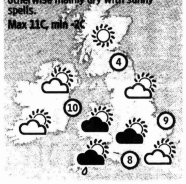
Five days ahead

Largely dry in the south and east with showers in the northwest, colder from Friday

Tomorrow

Rather cloudy with the chance of some patchy light rain across southern Ireland and southwestern Britain, otherwise mainly dry with sunny spells.

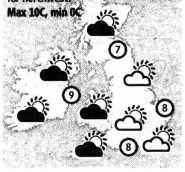
Max 11C, min -2C



New Year's Day

Early mist and fog slow to clear in places, but otherwise a mainly dry day with sunny spells. Cloudier in Scotland with some patchy rain in the far northwest.

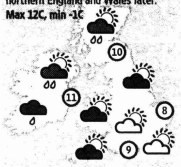
Max 10C, min 0C



Thursday

Dry, mild and windy with sunny spells across much of England and Wales. Cloud and patchy rain across Scotland and Ireland, perhaps spreading into northern England and Wales later.

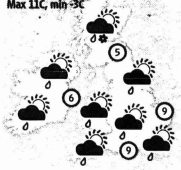
Max 12C, min -1C



Friday

Rather cloudy with showery rain spreading southeastwards across many places. Turning colder with wintry showers in Scotland later.

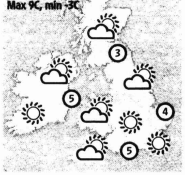
Max 11C, min -3C



Saturday

A mainly dry, chilly day across most of the British Isles with a few wintry showers near the coast of northwestern Scotland.

Max 9C, min -3C



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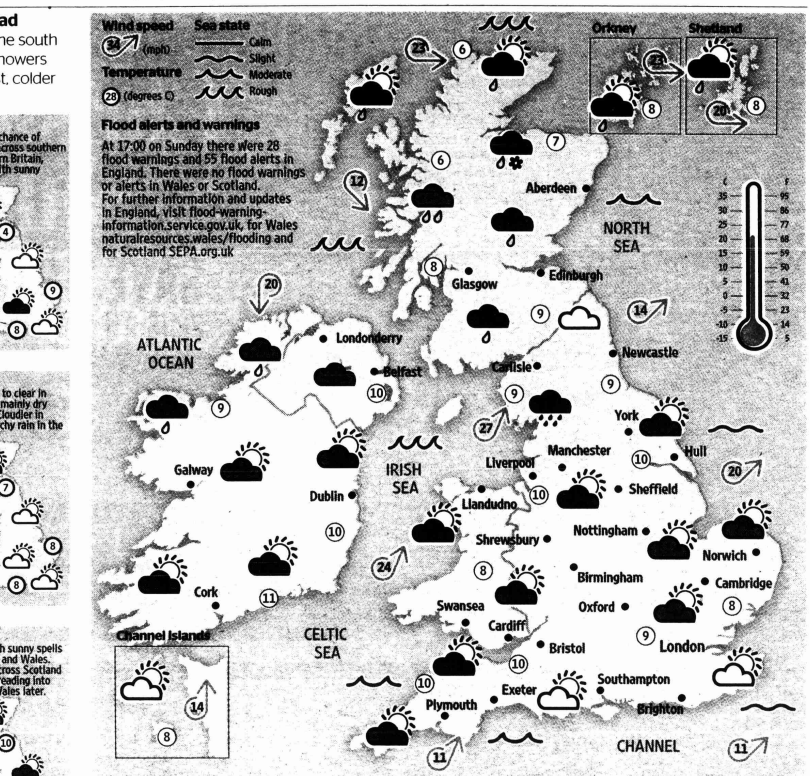
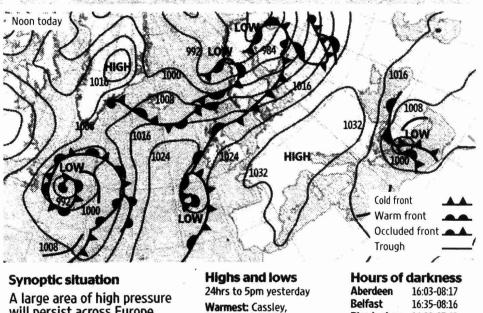


General situation: Dry with sunny spells developing in the south. Rain across Scotland and parts of Ireland. **London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Is:** Low cloud and fog patches clearing to leave a dry day with some sunny spells. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum 1C (34F). **SW Eng, Wales, NW Eng, Cen N Eng, E Eng:** Early fog patches clearing to leave some sunny spells, but cloud amounts generally increasing, especially in the west through the afternoon. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 11C (52F), minimum 0C (32F). **NE Eng, Borders, Lake District, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh & Dundee:** Mainly dry at first, but cloudy with patchy rain spreading in during the afternoon. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum -1C (30F). **Aberdeen, Cen Highland, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Aryll, N Isles:** A cloudy day with outbreaks of rain, giving way to brighter spells and showers in the north later. Light to moderate westerly winds, fresh in the Northern Isles. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum -3C (27F). **Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** Fog patches giving way to sunny spells in the south. Cloudy with outbreaks of rain across northern and western parts of Ireland. Light to moderate southerly winds. Maximum 11C (52F), minimum -1C (30F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	03:54	3.9	15:51	4.1
Avonmouth	09:37	12.2	21:56	11.8
Belfast	01:33	3.3	13:47	3.6
Cardiff	09:25	11.3	21:43	10.9
Devonport	08:01	5.3	20:22	4.9
Dover	01:19	6.5	13:39	6.2
Dublin	01:58	3.7	14:07	4.0
Falmouth	07:33	5.0	19:54	4.6
Greenock	02:44	3.3	14:57	3.6
Harwich	01:50	3.8	14:18	3.8
Holyhead	00:38	5.1	12:49	5.4
Hull	08:44	6.7	20:46	7.1
Leith	05:10	5.2	17:16	5.2
Liverpool	01:26	8.7	13:43	9.0
London Bridge	04:05	6.6	16:29	6.7
Lowestoft	12:22	2.3	--:--	--
Milford Haven	08:41	6.6	20:59	6.2
Morecambe	01:31	8.6	13:44	8.9
Newhaven	01:24	6.4	13:35	6.2
Newquay	07:33	6.7	19:52	6.3
Oban	08:02	3.9	20:10	3.5
Penzance	07:04	5.3	19:21	4.9
Portsmouth	01:55	4.5	13:55	4.4
Shoreham	01:34	6.0	13:42	5.8
Southampton	00:50	4.2	12:57	4.2
Swansea	08:47	8.9	21:04	8.4
Tees	06:12	4.9	18:11	5.1
Weymouth	09:00	2.0	21:21	1.7



Synoptic situation

A large area of high pressure will persist across Europe with a ridge extending into southern Britain allowing for dry conditions in most places with sunny spells. Low pressure to the southwest of Ireland with a warm front extending across northern parts of Ireland and Scotland will produce a lot of cloud and some patchy light rain in those areas.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Cassley, Sutherland, 16.8C
Coldest: Cairngorm, 2.2C
Wettest: Achnagart, Inverness-shire, 23.4mm
Sunniest: Morecambe, 0.8hrs

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 08.05
Sun sets: 15.59
Moon rises: 10.56
Moon sets: 20.30
First quarter: January 3rd

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	16:03-08:17
Belfast	16:35-08:16
Birmingham	16:31-07:48
Cardiff	16:41-07:48
Exeter	16:47-07:46
Glasgow	16:21-08:17
Liverpool	16:30-07:57
London	16:29-07:36
Manchester	16:27-07:54
Newcastle	16:16-08:01
Norwich	16:18-07:36
Penzance	16:57-07:51
Sheffield	16:24-07:51

Weather Eye

Paul Simons

Do you know what the connection is between a chain of famous teashops and Met Office weather forecasts? The answer is that the first electronic office computer, which was built by the catering company J Lyons & Co, inspired the Met Office to use its own computer for weather forecasting 60 years ago.

Lyons was famous for its inexpensive teashops, restaurants and catering business. To manage its vast business operation and keep its prices competitive, in 1951 it built the Lyons Electronic Office, or Leo. This calculated the costs of ingredients for bread and cakes, ran payroll for staff and overnight orders for delivery schedules the next day. It was fast and efficient, replacing hundreds of office workers who had been using mechanical calculating machines.

Leo was such a success that other organisations asked to try it out, including the Met Office which tested the computer for weather forecasting. The results were so impressive that in 1959 the Met Office brought in its own computer, "Meteor". It was capable of 3,000 calculations a second, which was a huge technological leap in weather forecasting.

From those humble beginnings, computers have revolutionised weather and climate forecasting. The Met Office's supercomputer can make 14,000 trillion calculations a second, and has enough memory to hold 200 trillion numbers and integrate 215 billion worldwide weather observations at the start of each forecast run.

Such huge computing power offers improved and more accurate weather forecasts, and also more detail and precise forecasts for specific locations.

As for the original Leo computer business, that was taken over by other companies that further developed the hardware. The last Leo computer, owned by the Post Office, came out of service in 1981 — the same year that the last Lyons teashop closed its doors.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 77 76 75

8am to 6pm daily (calls charged at £1.50 per minute plus network extras)

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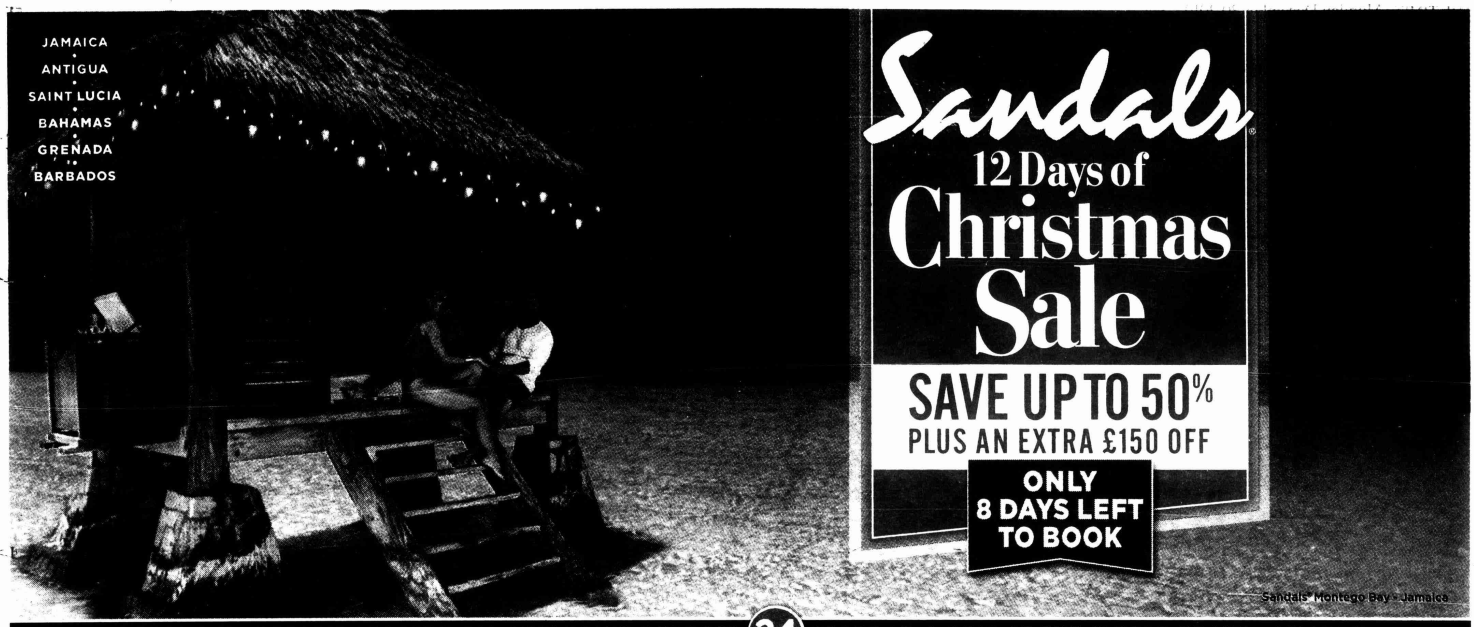

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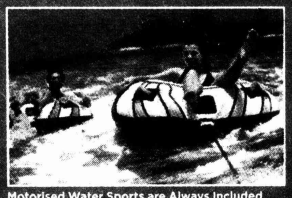
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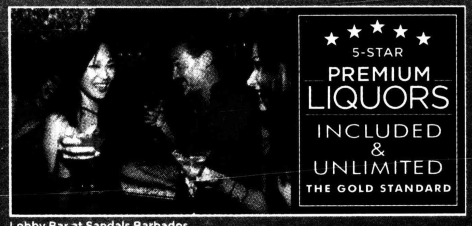

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Sport

HELMUT FOHRINGER/APA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Mikaela Shiffin made it a clean sweep in Lienz, Austria, yesterday, the American adding World Cup slalom victory to her triumph in Saturday's giant slalom event

Don't risk defeat, Joshua warned

Boxing
Declan Warrington

Anthony Joshua has been warned he could miss his chance of fighting Tyson Fury or Deontay Wilder to unify the four major world heavyweight titles.

The IBF, WBA and WBO champion, who this month avenged his only defeat when outpointing Andy Ruiz Jr to reclaim those titles in Saudi Arabia, will be forced to wait for the conclusion of the Wilder-Fury rivalry before he can challenge for the WBC championship.

Wilder again defends that title against Fury in a rematch in Las Vegas on February 22, after which the loser has the option of forcing a third fight. Wilder and Fury fought a draw in December 2018, since when Joshua has been criticised for first agreeing to fight Jarrell Miller, who failed a drug test, and late replacement Ruiz, losing to the latter before winning the rematch.

Joshua's loss furthered the claims of both Wilder and Fury to being the world's leading heavyweight, and Fury's co-promoters Frank Warren and Bob Arum believe that Joshua may never get the chance to prove them wrong. The 30-year-old is expected to next fight IBF mandatory challenger Kubrat Pulev, from Bulgaria and also promoted by Arum, and then Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk next year. Arum predicts that Pulev, 38, will stop Joshua and Warren insists that the champion should even concede his titles if it means avoiding another defeat.

"If I was Anthony Joshua I wouldn't fight again until we know the winner of this fight [Wilder v Fury], and then make them [his promoter Matchroom] make the fight," Warren, who believes that Fury will beat Wilder, said.

"I'd let them strip me of my titles and not fight anybody until the big one. Pulev can whack. I'd say 'I want the winner' [of Wilder-Fury]. Get all of the parties together, work something out. That's what the public want, to know who's the No1. The No3 and the No4 fought in Saudi Arabia. The No1 and No2 are fighting on February 22."

"I'm going to make a big prediction here," Arum said. "[After Joshua-Pulev] there will be no more Joshua. Everybody is overlooking the Bulgarian who has been training his ass off in my gym. He's not coming in fat like Andy Ruiz. He's going to pressure Joshua and can knock Joshua out."

Given that Wilder and Fury will fight twice either side of Joshua's bouts with Ruiz — the first fight in each rivalry proved thrilling — and the likelihood of Wilder-Fury III, Arum considers this heavyweight era the best since the days of Mike Tyson. "Lennox Lewis was terrific; the Klitschkos were good [but] didn't resonate. That era with Tyson [was the last that was so exciting]."

Van Gerwen and Price cruise into semi-finals

Darts
Gary Jacob

Michael van Gerwen and Gerwyn Price are one step from meeting in a much-anticipated PDC World Championship final after impressive victories last night.

The defending champion and world No1 Van Gerwen cruised to a 5-2 victory over Lithuania's Darius Labanauskas and will play Nathan Aspinall tonight. The Dutchman is looking for his fourth world title.

Price is in the form of his life and he thumped Glen Durrant 5-1. The former Neath and Glasgow Warriors rugby player has been painted as a pantomime villain for various antics on the oché including when he accused Simon Whitlock of "pathetic" slow play in their quarter-final on Saturday. Price averaged 99.69 in victory and will meet Peter Wright in the semi-finals. Price beat the Scot to lift the Grand Slam title in November.

"Snakebite" Wright, the No7 seed, is the ultimate showman and behind his colourful hairstyles, facial paint and loud outfits, he is a confident thrower.

Wright will want revenge over Price, but he also has the extra motivation of trying to reach his first world final since 2014, when he lost 7-4 to Van Gerwen at the Alexander Palace. Wright showed he meant business by throwing an average of 105.86 and hitting finishes of 170, 161 and 124 as he held off a late challenge from Luke Humphries to win 5-3 and secure his spot in the final four.

Fallon Sherrock will enjoy more global exposure after she accepted an invitation to compete in all PDC World Series of Darts events. The 25-year-old became the first woman to beat a male opponent at the tournament. She will take part in the remaining five international World Series of Darts events to be held in Copenhagen, Germany, New Zealand and the double-header in Australia.

Sport

Rapinoe's sledgehammer shatters the glass ceiling

Sporting decade reviewed

US star an emblem of the growing prestige of women's sport

Matt Dickinson

Chief Sports Writer

The most significant story of the sporting decade might best be told by a single image: a striking one of Megan Rapinoe on the cover of a recent *Sports Illustrated*, only the fourth woman to be named that magazine's sportsperson of the year.

Dressed in a white Valentino dress, she is looking straight out, chin slightly raised with a smile that says "if you want a fight, I am ready for you." Good luck if you take her on given she is wielding a serious-looking sledgehammer.

With her shock of pink hair and image of flowers and Rodin's *The Kiss* on her gown, it is a portrait of the United States footballer — and world player of the year — that manages to be fun, and feminine, while also unmistakably strong and defiant. It says: "I have fought hard to get to this place, not just on to this prestigious cover but here in life, and I am not about to move along quietly."

And as a quick glance at any responses will reveal, it is also an image that annoys the hell out of a lot of angry men, which tells you that Rapinoe's battle with that sledgehammer — smashing down walls, taking on the patriarchy — has a long way to run.

Still, perhaps we should celebrate that she is there at all. Rapinoe could not have struck that pose at the start of the decade, not with such profile and boldness. Heck, interviewed in 2009, she had not even felt able to come out to Nike, her sponsor, or her fans.

Now she is a fearless symbol — not just of sporting prowess but of change and strength and self-determination. And if, weirdly, she has come to feel like a threat to many men, well that is their problem as they stew angrily in their man-caves. The landscape is changing and all that should trouble us is why it took so long and if it is happening fast enough.

This was a decade when more people watched women's sport, got involved in it, promoted it, saw its potential and took it more seriously than ever. Organisations across the sporting world began to devote more resources; with the best intentions or simply realising that this was an area ripe for growth with commercial possibilities.

Attitudes changed; I know mine did, my kids' too. Yours? If not, why not? What, cumulatively, has been bigger in sport these past ten years? The exposing of Lance Armstrong, the downfall and resurrection of Tiger Woods and the continued veneration of Lionel Messi have been gripping tales but they have not challenged age-old perceptions.

Just this year, we can reflect that 11.7 million people watching the England women in a World Cup semi-final in one of the biggest TV audiences of the year; more women pundits such as Alex Scott and the excellent Emma Hayes; a female darts player in Fallon Sherrock beating men; the US women including Rapinoe taking legal action to get fair pay; huge crowds packing out Stamford Bridge and the Etihad and the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid for women's club matches.

Much of this was unthinkable a decade ago — as was Lord's selling out for a women's cricket World Cup final in 2017 or a surge in netball, especially after 1.5 million watched the England Roses win the Commonwealth Games in 2018. And that is only in Britain. There is change from Australia to America, and in the Olympics, which very belatedly moves towards equal representation.

Rapinoe's Sports Illustrated portrait, while fun and feminine, delivered a message to the sporting patriarchy

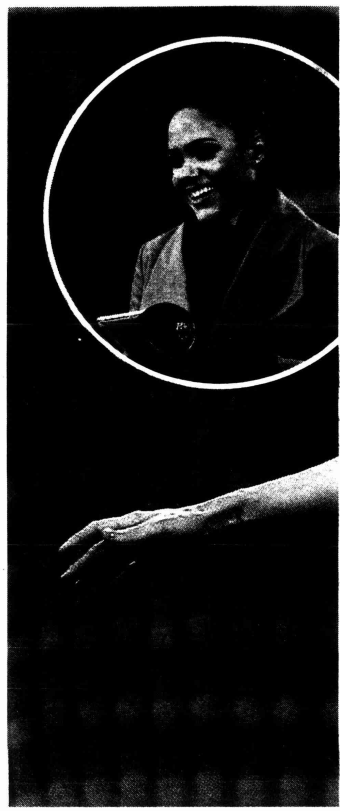
If you think we are getting ahead of ourselves and that we really do not care about women's sport — stop shoving it down our throats, blah blokey blah — perhaps you need to think again and simply consider the direction of travel.

Another woke article? No doubt there were similar splutters of indignation when someone floated the radical idea that women might have the vote. Political correctness? Do you really prefer the alternative?

We really need not waste time arguing whether women's sport has had an outrageously raw deal ever since the first Olympics in 776BC — which was men only, inevitably. To think that women were not allowed to enter Olympic rowing, the delicate creatures, when I was growing up.

When we consider how little was put into women's sport for so long so that men could go off and enjoy themselves, the question is not whether there has been scandalous neglect but what we are doing to correct it. Sport frets about racism. But sexism, gender imbalance?

Can we really be surprised that Rapinoe, and others, feel a need to force the issue. "I feel as if women are socialised not to take up space and men are," she said in an interview. You could say that is the story not just of sport but centuries of civilisation. Still many men wonder why she feels a need to wield that sledgehammer.



A women's football World Cup did not even exist until I was 20. In 2015 they made the players hold a tournament on plastic pitches, which simply would not happen to the best men. In 2019 in France we saw the most successful women's World Cup yet, with so much more potential.

Rapinoe was top scorer, each goal bringing her signature celebration, "The Pose", to a new audience. A touch of arrogance? Absolutely, though still only a fraction of

Taunton
Rob Wright

12.45 Zoffee (nb) **2.55** Hollow Park
1.15 Fuseau **3.30** Winter Getaway
1.50 Elite Garde **4.00** Twenty Twenty
2.25 Marie's Rock

Going: soft **Racing TV**

12.45 Juvenile Hurdle
(3-Y-O: £5,458: 2m 104yd) (12 runners)

1 15 **THE PINK'N** 24 (H) J W Mullins 11-4 **D Sansom (3)**
2 64 **ARIZONA GLORY** 24 E Williams 10-12 **C Ring (3)**
3 52 **BLACKO** 83 A King 10-12 **T Bellamy**
4 **BROUGHTONS BEAR** F141 (W) O Sherwood 10-12 **L Aspell**
5 4 **CHEZ HANS** 43 (T) P Nicholls 10-12 **H Cobden**
6 00 **EIGHTEENHUNDRED** 20 (P,T) M Gillard 10-12 **F Gillard (7)**
7 00 **HURRICANE HERO** 18 Olly Murphy 10-12 **C McKinnes (7)**
8 **LOCH LAGGAN** F237 B Pauling 10-12 **N De Boinville**
9 **NIGHT EDITION** F197 (H) D Pipe 10-12 **T Scudamore**
10 00 **NOVUS ADITUS** 89 N Hawke 10-12 **C O'Farrell**
11 2 **ZOFFEE** 25 (BF) P Hobbs 10-12 **R Johnson**
12 0 **IDEAL GRACE** 12 B Barr 10-5 **A Johns**

6-4 Zoffee, 2-1 Blacko, 6-1 Chez Hans, 8-1 Night Edition, The Pink'n, 25-1 Loch Laggan, Arizona Glory, 33-1 Broughtons Bear.

Wright choice: Zoffee, fair on the Flat, needed the experience when second at Market Rasen **Dangers:** Blacko, Chez Hans

1.15 Novices' Hurdle (£5,458: 2m 3f) (14)

1 3-001 **WHO SHOT JR** 32 (C) C Tizzard 5-11-4 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
2 6-0 **EROS** 229 (T) Olly Murphy 5-10-12 **A Coleman**
3 5 **EVERYTHING FOR YOU** 44 I Williams 5-10-12 **T Scudamore**
4 52-20 **FITZROY** 44 (H) Olly Murphy 5-10-12 **R Johnson**
5 10-23 **FLIC OU VOYOU** 51 P Nicholls 5-10-12 **H Cobden**
6 30- **FREDDY FANATAPAN** 310 W Kittow 4-10-12 **N Schofield**
7 245-2 **FUSEAU** 56 A King 4-10-12 **T Bellamy**
8 4-503 **REPUBLICAN** 32 O Sherwood 4-10-12 **L Aspell**
9 U1- **THE JITTERBUG** 589 H Fry 6-10-12 **S Bowen**
10 0 **WILLIAMS OVERTURE** 34 David Dennis 4-10-12 **L Edwards**
11 442- **JUST HENNY** 260 (T) N Mulholland 5-10-5 **Robert Dunne**
12 5/44- **MALACHYS GIRL** 362 B Pauling 6-10-5 **N De Boinville**
13 4PUP/ **MRS TROUT** 673 K Bishop 9-10-5 **Shane Quinlan (5)**
14 00-0 **SUNNY GIRL** 35 (T) A Wintle 5-10-5 **B Poste**

15-8 Flic Ou Voyou, 3-1 Fuseau, 13-2 Fitzroy, 8-1 Who Shot Jr, 10-1 Malachys Girl, The Jitterbug, Everything For You, 16-1 Republican.

Wright choice: Fuseau was a good second on his hurdles debut at Plumpton **Dangers:** Flic Ou Voyou, Malachys Girl

1.50 Handicap Chase (£7,083: 2m 7f) (10)

1 2-11U **MANOFTHEMOUNTAIN** 32 (BF) Emma Lavelle 6-11-12 **B R Jones (5)**
2 3/6P- **BUSTER MOON** 254 J Scott 7-11-12 **N Schofield**
3 PP-36 **SIZING CUSIMANO** 12 C Tizzard 6-11-11 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
4 -340P **SUPAKALANISTIC** 50 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4 **J Bargary**
5 343-3 **SHAUGHNESSY** 40 (P) O Sherwood 6-11-4 **L Aspell**
6 15F36 **CHIMES OF DYLAN** 40 T Vaughan 6-11-3 **A Johns**
7 04-11 **ELITE GARDE** 25 (D) P Webber 5-11-2 **R Johnson**
8 03-05 **PUTDECASHONTHEDASH** 32 (T) K Burke 6-10-6 **T Bellamy**
9 -P003 **DU DESTIN** 34 (P) N Henderson 6-10-0 **N De Boinville**
10 U06-5 **GIBB HILL** 215 (W) R Buckler 5-10-0 **J Best**

3-1 Manofthemountain, 4-1 Elite Garde, 6-1 Sizing Cusimano, 13-2 Shaughnessy, 7-1 Putdecashonthedash, 10-1 Du Destin, Buster Moon, 12-1 Supakalanistic.

Wright choice: Elite Garde has won both starts over fences; unexposed at this trip **Dangers:** Shaughnessy, Du Destin

2.25 Mares' Novices' Hurdle
(£12,529: 2m 104yd) (7)

1 11 **MARIE'S ROCK** 26 (D) N Henderson 4-11-5 **N De Boinville**
2 2-113 **SILVER FOREVER** 30 (D) P Nicholls 5-11-5 **H Cobden**
3 -3211 **DEJA VUE** 14 (D) A Honeyball 5-11-2 **A Coleman**
4 1-25U **IT'S PROBABLY ME** 9 (D) H Daly 4-11-2 **B Patrick**
5 P-215 **QUEENS CAVE** 16 (T,D) D Pipe 6-11-2 **T Scudamore**
6 200- **ZERO TO HERO** F88 (H) Mrs S Leech 4-11-2 **A P Heskin**
7 11 **MIDNIGHTS' GIFT** 23 (D) A King 3-10-8 **T Bellamy**

9-4 Silver Forever, 5-2 Deja Vue, 7-2 Marie's Rock, 5-1 Midnights' Gift, 10-1 Queens Cave, 14-1 It's Probably Me, 66-1 Zero To Hero.

Wright choice: Marie's Rock showed a smart turn of foot at Haydock and can handle this higher grade **Danger:** Deja Vue

2.55 Handicap Chase (£5,718: 3m 2f) (16)

1 06-02 **BELLAMY'S GREY** 43 (P) C J Gray 7-11-12 **T Doggrell (7)**
2 122P4 **THE BOOLA BEE** 18 (H) N Hawke 6-11-10 **T Buckley (7)**
3 250-5 **KILCREA BRIDGE** 38 (P,T) R G Hawker 8-11-10 **Robert Dunne**
4 62-P2 **TROED Y MELIN** 18 J Frost 7-11-8 **B Carver (7)**
5 -40P0 **CAP HORNER** 22 (P,C,D) J W Mullins 7-11-7 **D Sansom (3)**
6 3-306 **BIG TIME FRANK** 32 (P) P Gundry 8-11-3 **J Best**
7 -5404 **GREAT TEMPO** 38 (B,T) D Pipe 6-11-2 **F Gillard (7)**
8 33-53 **LIZZIE LANGTON** 25 (P,T,BF) C Tizzard 8-11-0 **H Cobden**
9 -353U **MOGESTIC** 42 J W Mullins 10-10-13 **K Jones (3)**
10 3U13/ **MOUNT OLIVER** 696 (P,BF,D) N Mulholland 9-10-11 **T Scudamore**
11 52U24 **DONT BE ROBIN** 32 (V,D) Mrs R Ford 7-10-11 **R Johnson**
12 P536- **KOVERA** 248 (D) T Vaughan 7-10-10 **Charlie Price (5)**
13 P32-4 **HOLLOW PARK** 34 (T) Katy Price 7-10-7 **B Poste**
14 33332 **MAX O** 46 (V) R Armson 9-10-7 **P Armson (7)**
15 60P-5 **CLONDAW ACE** 48 T Vaughan 6-10-6 **A Johns**
16 46U16 **KINGSTON MIMOSA** 27 (P) M Gillard 7-10-5 **J M Davies**

11-2 Bellamy's Grey, 7-1 Troed Y Melin, 8-1 Great Tempo, 10-1 The Boola Bee, Lizzie Langton, Max O, Dont Be Robin, 12-1 Kilcrea Bridge, Mogestic, Kovera.

Wright choice: Hollow Park needed the run when a fair fourth at Southwell **Dangers:** Kovera, Kilcrea Bridge

3.30 Handicap Hurdle (£8,382: 3m) (8)

1 P-220 **JERSEY BEAN** 46 (D) O Sherwood 6-11-12 **L Aspell**
2 3-400 **DINOS BENEFIT** 16 (P) C Tizzard 7-11-11 **H Cobden**
3 30-13 **THEGALLANTWAY** 46 F O'Brien 6-11-4 **C Brace (3)**
4 -1311 **WINTER GETAWAY** 40 P Hobbs 6-11-4 **R Johnson**
5 1-501 **NORMANDY SOLDIER** 16 R Mitford-Slade 5-11-1 **B Carver (7)**
6 5P6-0 **KANSAS CITY CHIEF** 18 (D) N Mulholland 10-10-13 **Robert Dunne**
7 521-4 **MARMONT** 225 (W,H,T,C) Miss J Davis 6-10-8 **J M Davies**
8 21-30 **COMPADRE** 38 H Evans 8-10-4 **L Treadwell**

2-1 Winter Getaway, 7-2 Normandy Soldier, 4-1 Thegallantway, 8-1 Jersey Bean, Compadre, 12-1 Dinos Benefit, Marmont, 25-1 Kansas City Chief.

Wright choice: Winter Getaway steps up in trip after staying on well at Warwick **Dangers:** Dinos Benefit, Marmont

4.00 Handicap Hurdle
(£5,458: 2m 3f) (17)

1 3-231 **LIGHTLY SQUEEZE** 4 H Fry 5-12-5(7ex) **B Carver (3)**
2 30332 **TWENTY TWENTY** 22 (V) G L Moore 4-11-13 **N F Houlihan (8)**
3 3-630 **STARSKY** 24 (T) P Nicholls 5-11-12 **L Williams (3)**
4 42-P0 **FARM THE ROCK** 55 Katy Price 8-11-11 **Tabitha Worsley**
5 50506 **BREFFNIBOY** 32 J Farrelly 5-11-11 **B R Jones**
6 0110- **QUEEN OF THE WIND** 365 C Tizzard 6-11-11 **H Kimber (8)**
7 60BFU **MEAD VALE** 61 (P,C) N Hawke 6-11-10 **T Buckley (3)**
8 046 **SEASEARCH** 18 (T) C J Gray 4-11-10 **R Dingle**
9 0-255 **MISS GEMSTONE** 32 K Bailey 5-11-7 **C Brace**
10 33-40 **BRIAC** 14 T Vaughan 8-11-5 **Charlie Price (3)**
11 /60-0 **DAYTIME AHEAD** 23 R Hodges 8-11-5 **R Patrick**
12 432-0 **LETS GO DUTCHESS** 25 (T,CD) K Bishop 9-11-4 **M Kendrick**
13 6-000 **UNBLINKING** 53 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4 **J Nailor (6)**
14 P4-44 **GET WISHING** 24 (P,T) V Dartnall 7-11-1 **E Austin (3)**
15 020-0 **MR MAGILL** 18 (T) K Burke 7-10-2 **B Godfrey (3)**
16 F-500 **FLOW WITH EVE** 39 (P) K Bishop 10-10-0 **Shane Quinlan**
17 -0603 **CANDYMAN CAN** 170 (H) Miss L Hurley 9-10-0 **Page Fuller**

5-2 Lightly Squeeze, 13-2 Starsky, 7-1 Twenty Twenty, 8-1 Miss Gemstone, 10-1 Queen Of The Wind, Get Wishing, 14-1 Unblinking, Mead Vale, Breffniboy.

Wright choice: Twenty Twenty shaped well when second at Huntingdon **Dangers:** Lightly Squeeze, Lets Go Duchess

Haydock Park
Rob Wright

12.25 Donnie Brasco **2.35 The Con Man** (nap)
12.55 Secret Reprieve **3.10** Charmix
1.30 Ebony Jewel **3.40** Crypto
2.00 Lord Du Mesnil

Going: soft, heavy in places on chase course
Racing TV

12.25 Handicap Hurdle (£6,498: 3m) (11)

1 1-33 **DONNIE BRASCO** 23 K Bailey 6-11-12 **Chester Williams (3)**
2 -0P35 **TOO MANY CHIEFS** 13 (D) Mrs S Watt 8-11-11 **D McMenamin**
3 2-103 **AKARITA LIGHTS** 23 I Williams 5-11-11 **C Todd (6)**
4 33001 **BUSTER EDWARDS** 16 (B,T) D Pipe 6-11-11 **Jack Tudor (3)**
5 -3541 **LONGHOUSESIGNORA** 16 (B) Miss V Williams 7-11-11 **F Gregory**
6 0-P53 **BEHIND TIME** 20 (P) Kevin Frost 8-11-9 **William Marshall (5)**
7 0P-0U **GRAY DAY** 13 D McCain 8-11-8 **L Murtagh (3)**
8 P-006 **TURTLE WARS** 33 (P) J Moffatt 6-11-7 **Charlotte Jones (6)**
9 -4312 **PASSAM** 20 (T,D) Miss C Dyson 7-11-7 **C Hammond**
10 56P-5 **FIFTH SYMPHONY** 59 (P,T) B Pauling 5-11-3 **Luca Morgan (3)**
11 2-P60 **STRIKE WEST** 19 M Hammond 7-10-10 **B Garritty (3)**

5-4 Longhousesignora, 6-1 Buster Edwards, Donnie Brasco, 10-1 Passam, Akarita Lights, 12-1 Gray Day, Fifth Symphony, 20-1 others.

12.55 Beginners' Chase
(£9,747: 2m 4f) (2)

1 1-42F **CLOUDY GLEN** 4 (BF) Miss V Williams 6-10-13 **C Deutsch**
2 15-52 **SECRET REPRIEVE** 50 E Williams 5-10-13 **A Wedge**

8-11 Cloudy Glen, 11-10 Secret Reprieve.

1.30 EBF NH Novices' Hurdle
(£6,758: 2m) (8)

1 21-41 **FIRST LORD DE CUET** 27 (T,D) D Pipe 5-11-4 **D Noonan**
2 16-33 **EBONY JEWEL** 26 (BF,D) N Alexander 5-10-12 **Lucy Alexander**
3 410-0 **ENLIGHTEN** 54 (D) M W Easterby 5-10-12 **H Bannister**
4 5F **FRIMEUR DE LANCRAY** 13 Mrs S Smith 4-10-12 **D Cook**
5 -2565 **FULL OF ROQUE** 16 T Vaughan 4-10-12 **W T Kennedy**
6 31-50 **LOCO COCO** 16 T Vaughan 4-10-12 **J Bowen**
7 2-15 **MCGARRY** 11 Henry Oliver 5-10-12 **J McGrath**
8 45 **THE NEWEST ONE** 35 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12 **S Twiston-Davies**

9-4 First Lord De Cuet, 11-4 Ebony Jewel, 3-1 Frimeur De Lancray, 8-1 The Newest One, 14-1 Mcgarry, Enlighten, Full Of Roque, 33-1 Loco Coco.

2.00 Handicap Chase (£15,640: 3m 4f) (6)

1 P0P4- **THOMAS PATRICK** 317 Tom Lacey 7-11-8 **S Twiston-Davies**
2 42211 **LORD DU MESNIL** 9 (P,T,C) Richard Hobson 6-11-5 **Paul O'Brien (3)**
3 00-56 **FACT OF THE MATTER** 43 (P,T) J Snowden 9-11-4 **G Sheehan**
4 5-441 **PERFECT CANDIDATE** 37 (CD) F O'Brien 12-11-3 **P Brennan**
5 F1/53 **POTTERS LEGEND** 44 (P,C) Mrs L Wadham 9-11-1 **J Quinlan**
6 314-4 **CLASSIC BEN** 23 (P,BF) Stuart Edmunds 6-11-0 **C Gethings**

9-4 Lord Du Mesnil, 3-1 Perfect Candidate, 7-2 Potters Legend, 13-2 Thomas Patrick, 8-1 Fact Of The Matter, Classic Ben.

2.35 Handicap Hurdle (£9,032: 2m 3f) (11)

1 11/U- **THE LINKSMAN** 425 Sam England 7-11-12 **J England**
2 1-322 **THEATRE LEGEND** 44 C Grant 6-11-12 **P Brennan**
3 431-4 **CRIXUS'S ESCAPE** 57 G Boanas 6-11-5 **S Quinlan**
4 3-012 **INFORMATEUR** 26 (BF) Mrs S Smith 6-11-4 **D Cook**
5 02-40 **ALTRUISM** 183 J Moffatt 9-11-2 **Charlotte Jones (7)**
6 0-231 **JELSKI** 30 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
7 11-2 **THE CON MAN** 26 D McCain 6-11-0 **B Hughes**
8 26505 **NOTWHATIAM** 9 A Berry 9-10-11 **T Phelan**
9 00000 **ZIG ZAG** 33 (P) P Kirby 6-10-10 **T Dowson**
10 53-31 **FLINCK** 40 (D) P Hobbs 5-10-10 **T J O'Brien**
11 -0116 **DON JUAN DU GOUET** 37 (D) H Daly 6-10-5 **Bryony Frost**

3-1 Theatre Legend, 4-1 Jelski, 9-2 Informateur, 6-1 Flinck, 13-2 The Con Man, 10-1 Don Juan Du Gouet, 12-1 Crixus's Escape, 14-1 The Linksman.

3.10 Handicap Chase (£9,747: 2m 6f) (8)

1 6P12- **LOUGH DERG JEWEL** 351 D McCain 8-11-12 **B Hughes**
2 35-25 **RAVENHILL ROAD** 18 Mrs S Smith 8-11-9 **D Cook**
3 -24U2 **JUSTFORJAMES** 24 M Hammond 10-11-7 **Miss Becky Smith (3)**
4 4-3U4 **GOLD OPERA** 22 (V) K Dalgleish 10-11-5 **Craig Nichol**
5 6/0-3 **CHARMIX** 23 Miss L Russell 9-11-5 **C Bewley**
6 5-324 **NESTERENKO** 52 Miss V Williams 10-10-9 **C Deutsch**
7 1-0P5 **NEWBERRY NEW** 18 (P) William Bethell 7-10-6 **Lucy Alexander**
8 24F-2 **CRAIGANBOY** 33 (H,T) N Alexander 10-10-5 **G Cockburn (3)**

7-2 Nesterenko, 5-1 Justforjames, Craiganboy, 11-2 Lough Derg Jewel, 6-1 Ravenhill Road, Charmix, 13-2 Gold Opera, 20-1 Newberry New.

3.40 Standard Open NH Flat Race
(£3,249: 2m) (10)

1 341-1 **ASK A HONEY BEE** 34 (D) F O'Brien 5-11-7 **Liam Harrison (7)**
2 1- **CRYPTO** 300 (D) Miss V Williams 5-11-7 **C Deutsch**
3 34-51 **KIRIGLOTE** 38 (D) D McCain 5-11-7 **H Beswick (5)**
4 64-6 **DEE LANE** 93 (W) G Hanmer 6-11-0 **A Thorne (7)**
5 3 **FOSTER'SISLAND** 240 (BF) M Hammond 4-11-0 **Emma Smith-Chaston (7)**
6 0 **FOU DETOI** 12 (H) M Mullineaux 4-11-0 **S Quinlan**
7 22 **JAYAAAH** 25 Mrs S Smith 4-11-0 **D Cook**
8 1/4 **MUSE OF FIRE** 33 (T) J Groucott 5-11-0 **C Todd (7)**
9 **ONCHAN** N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
10 66- **WHO'S THE GUV'NOR** 302 (W) M Hammond 5-11-0 **A Cawley**

2-1 Crypto, 7-2 Onchan, 4-1 Jayaaah, 5-1 Ask A Honey Bee, 13-2 Kirigiote, 16-1 Foster'sisland, 25-1 Muse Of Fire, 33-1 Who's The Guv'nor.

Lingfield Park
Rob Wright

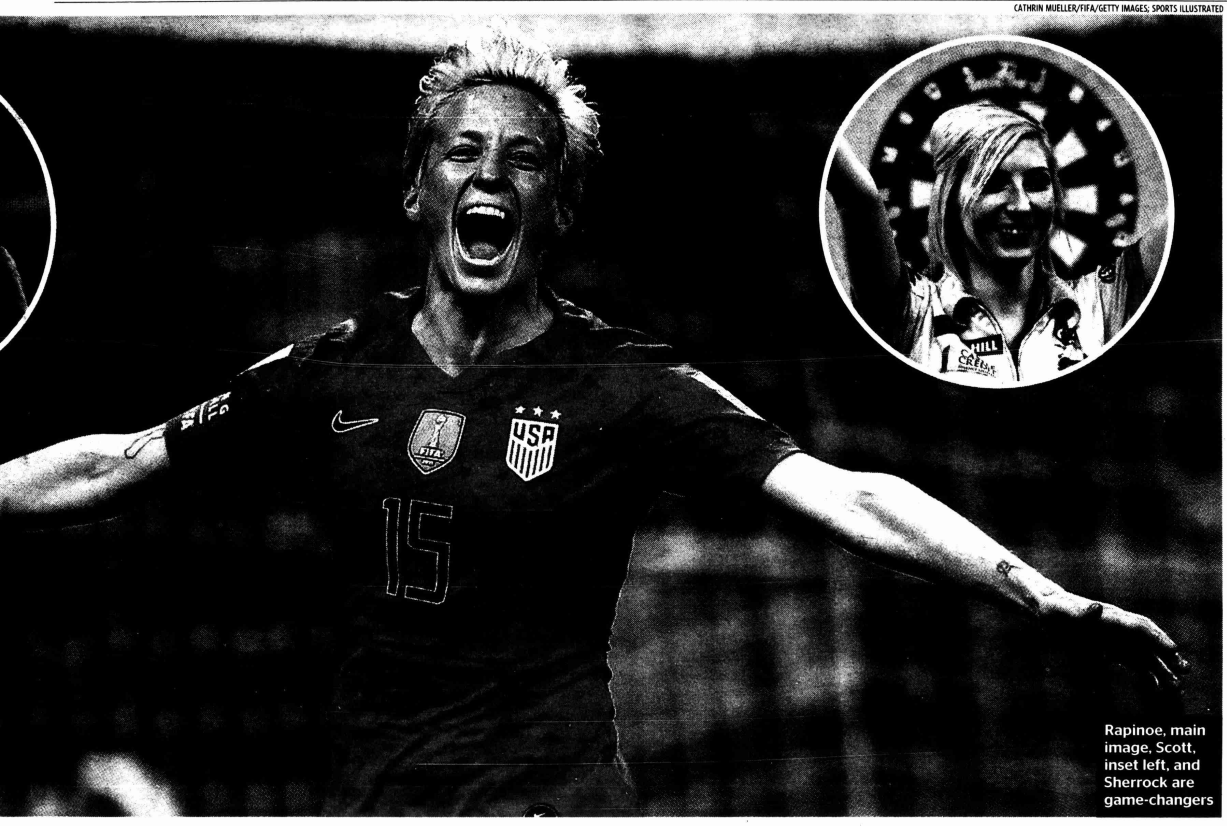
12.05 Lawyersgunsn'money **2.10** Baileys Blues
12.35 Salkung **2.45** Exmoor Beast
1.05 Maqboola **3.20** Shelter
1.40 Count Otto

Going: standard **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: no advantage

12.05 Handicap (£2,782: 1m) (12)

1 (11) 00006 **WELOOF** 23 (CD) J Butler 5-9-7 **J Haynes**
2 (6) 04621 **GERRY THE GLOVER** 32 (P,C,D) L Carter 7-9-7 **Doubtful**
3 (10) 00020 **FRENCH TWIST** 2 (B) David Loughnane 3-9-6 **T Greatrex (3)**
4 (3) 45010 **HUDDLE** 19 (V,CD) W Knight 3-9-6 **Pierre-Louis Jamin (7)**
5 (2) 00610 **KODILINE** 12 (V,C) P Evans 5-9-6 **C Lee**

CATHRIN MUELLER/FIFA/GETTY IMAGES; SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



Rapinoe, main image, Scott, inset left, and Sherrock are game-changers

Cristiano Ronaldo's. Or are only men allowed to show off?

"It was kind of like a 'F*** you', but with a big smile and a shit-eating grin," Rapinoe says. Her aim was "defiance but it's cheeky". She has a status and is determined to use it in a way that Raheem Sterling is lauded for being a footballer with social awareness. Or are there rules about who can speak out against injustice?

Rapinoe was one of the first athletes to join Colin Kaepernick's protest against police brutality by kneeling during the US national anthem, at the risk to her reputation in the US. In January, she took on Donald Trump, and his attitudes to women and LGBT rights, saying that she would "not go to the F***ing White House" even if the US team won the World Cup.

As the winner of the second Ballon d'Or Féminin award, she challenged the likes of Ronaldo and Messi to join campaigns against racism and sexism. In September, receiving the Fifa Best award, she made a brilliantly eloquent speech saying that it was not just up to Sterling or Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly to take a stand against racism but everyone in football to stand shoulder to shoulder.

I thought it was one of the best speeches in a long time from any sporting figure, yet still the bile rains down. Perhaps we should see it as a progress that so many men care enough to post, and to hate.

"Going through all of the backlash and the craziness and the hatred, that only solidified my understanding of myself and the power in my voice," Rapinoe says. Like Billie Jean King, she has not chosen the easy route.

But she speaks, magnificently, for a cause that is surely the most important trend of this sporting decade. And perhaps for the decades to come too when we consider how much neglect and denial of opportunity there is still to reverse.

Champion boost for Epatante

Racing
Rob Wright Racing Editor

Epatante was the big winner from yesterday's racing, despite staying in her box at Nicky Henderson's stables in Lambourn.

An impressive winner of the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Boxing Day, Epatante is now a best-priced 3-1 favourite for the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in March after her main market rival, Klassical Dream, trailed home last at Leopardstown yesterday.

The Willie Mullins-trained Klassical Dream, last season's leading novice, was sent off the 10-11 favourite for the grade one Matheson Hurdle. He made the early running but lost his position with a blunder at the fourth flight and, having recovered to have a chance two out, weakened quickly from that point and was eased down by jockey Paul Townend. The race was won easily by his stablemate, Sharjah, who landed this prize for the second year running.

Klassical Dream, who had been joint-favourite with Epatante for the Champion Hurdle, is now as big as 12-1 with Coral. Sharjah, who was brought down early on in the Champion Hurdle last season, is also a general 12-1 shot.

Lostintranslation, who was pulled up in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, could have an operation to help with his breathing.

Joe Tizzard, son and assistant to the horse's trainer, Colin, said yesterday: "We are going to check his wind, and then it is our job to get him back for Cheltenham. "That [run] was just too bad to be true. He was beaten way too early. The Gold Cup is still the aim — one bad run doesn't make him a bad horse. Whether we run him again before, I don't know. If he only has a soft palate [operation] done, then a Denman Chase [at Newbury in February] would give him a confidence booster."

6 (1) 00033 **SUBLIMINAL** 19 (B,BF,C) S Dow 4-9-5 **L Morris**
7 (9) 00106 **MAGWADIRI** 10 (D) M Loughnane 5-9-4 **K Lundie (5)**
8 (5) 04062 **LAWYERSGUNSN'MONEY** 20 (P) R Teal 4-9-4 **T Marquand**
9 (7) 43500 **BULLINGTON BOY** 11 J Chapple-Hyam 3-9-4 **Ray Dawson (5)**
10 (4) 05011 **AGENT OF FORTUNE** 19 (P,CD) G L Moore 4-9-4 **H Crouch**
11 (12) 45504 **YOUR MOTHERS' EYES** 14 (P) A Bailey 3-9-3 **D Probert**
12 (8) 00002 **SHAFFIRE** 21 (H) H Whittington 3-9-1 **R Kingscote**

11-4 Agent Of Fortune, 4-1 Subliminal, 13-2 Shaffire, 7-1 Lawyersgunsn'money, Weloof, 12-1 French Twist, 14-1 Huddle, Your Mothers' Eyes, Kodilline.

12.35 Handicap (£5,208: 1m) (10)

1 (7) 53202 **SAIKUNG** 19 (D) C Hills 3-9-7 **K Shoemark**
2 (1) 31462 **MICKEY** 30 (V) T Dascombe 6-9-6 **R Kingscote**
3 (8) 50660 **ALMUFTI** 30 (T,BF) H Palmer 3-9-6 **J Mitchell**
4 (4) 06110 **SEA FOX** 16 (D) P Evans 5-9-3 **C Lee**
5 (3) 14662 **THECHILDREN'STRUST** 19 (D) G L Moore 4-9-2 **H Crouch**
6 (9) 52060 **CANDELISA** 108 (T,D) David Loughnane 6-9-2 **T Greatrex (3)**
7 (10) 25135 **DELICATE KISS** 26 (B,CD) J Bridger 5-9-1 **A Beech (5)**
8 (6) 00153 **STRINGYBARK CREEK** 25 (CD) David Loughnane 5-9-0 **Hollie Doyle**
9 (5) 60511 **ROMAN SPINNER** 19 (T,CD) R Guest 4-9-0 **R Hornby**
10 (2) 30150 **NAWAR** 33 (T,CD) M Bosley 4-8-13 **R Havlin**

7-2 Roman Spinner, 4-1 Mickey, 5-1 Thechildren'strust, 6-1 Saikung, 8-1 Almufti, 10-1 Stringybark Creek, Sea Fox, 12-1 Delicate Kiss.

1.05 Handicap (£2,782: 7f) (14)

1 (2) 56023 **DISRUPTOR** 20 (V) P Evans 3-9-7 **C Lee**
2 (12) 00005 **ZAYRIYAN** 23 (T,V) Ali Stronge 4-9-7 **T Marquand**
3 (11) 13504 **VINCENZO COCCOTTI** 12 (P,D) P Chamings 7-9-6 **H Crouch**
4 (7) 04421 **MAQBOOLA** 2 (CD) R Hughes 3-9-12(6ex) **S W Kelly**
5 (5) 00600 **DECLAMATION** 37 (CD) J Butler 9-9-5 **J Haynes**
6 (3) 46020 **MY LAW** 32 J Boyle 3-9-5 **Rhiain Ingram (5)**
7 (4) 34213 **PRINCE ROCK** 12 (BF,CD) S Dow 4-9-4 **L Morris**
8 (1) 00062 **ELUSIF** 12 (D) S L Keightley 4-9-4 **M Dwyer**
9 (9) 00040 **KEEP IT COUNTRY TV** 21 (CD) P Phelan 3-9-0 **C Bennett**
10 (8) 00503 **ALISIA R** 42 J L Eyre 3-8-12 **L Edmunds**
11 (6) -0446 **COME ON BEAR** 174 A Bailey 4-8-12 **D Probert**
12 (10) 40550 **ROCA MAGICA** 19 E Dunlop 3-8-12 **R Havlin**
13 (14) 40530 **YFENNI** 112 J Bradley 3-8-12 **Hollie Doyle**
14 (13) 00060 **RAMBLOW** 20 (T,V,CD) Alexandra Dunn 6-8-12 **K Baker (7)**

11-4 Maqboola, 9-2 Prince Rock, 5-1 Elusif, 8-1 Vincenzo Coccotti, 10-1 Zayriyan, 12-1 Disruptor, 14-1 My Law, 16-1 Alisia R, Keep It Country Tv, Declamation.

1.40 Handicap (£7,246: 6f) (12)

1 (3) 30355 **MERHOOB** 4 (CD) J Ryan 7-9-11 **D Keenan (3)**
2 (8) 32316 **LADY DANCEALOT** 26 (BF,D) D Elsworth 4-9-7 **H Turner**
3 (11) 10114 **TOTAL COMMITMENT** 16 (D) P Hedger 3-9-7 **Hollie Doyle**
4 (10) 06024 **INTISAAR** 16 (P,T,D) D O'Meara 8-9-6 **D Probert**
5 (9) 00402 **DUNKERRON** 31 (D) J Tuite 3-9-5 **C Bishop**
6 (7) 31660 **CHARMING KID** 198 (D) D Ivory 3-9-5 **J Haynes**
7 (2) 25305 **COUNT OTTO** 63 (H,CD) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-2 **M Dwyer**
8 (5) 23432 **PRINCE OF ROME** 21 (P,BF) R Hughes 3-9-1 **Tyler Heard (7)**
9 (1) 02231 **FIZZY FEET** 21 (CD) David Loughnane 3-8-13 **R Kingscote**
10 (12) 03005 **SPOOF** 11 (H) C Hills 4-8-13 **K Shoemark**
11 (6) 15146 **SECOND COLLECTION** 31 (H,D) A Carroll 3-8-12 **T Marquand**
12 (4) 54004 **SUZI'S CONNOISSEUR** 18 (B,CD) J Chapple-Hyam 8-8-8 **Ray Dawson (5)**

9-2 Lady Dancealot, 6-1 Prince of Rome, Total Commitment, Fizzy Feet, 7-1 Dunkerron, 8-1 Intisaab, 10-1 Count Otto, 12-1 Merhoob.

2.10 Nursery (2-Y-O: £4,464: 6f) (8)

1 (8) 0146 **KONDRATIEV WAVE** 23 A Carroll 9-7 **T Marquand**
2 (1) 23020 **DAZZLING DES** 34 (P) D O'Meara 9-3 **K Shoemark**
3 (7) 61604 **WINNING STREAK** 34 (T,D) S C Williams 9-3 **R Kingscote**
4 (2) 26621 **BIRKENHEAD** 32 (C) J L Eyre 9-2 **L Edmunds**
5 (3) 34150 **LITTLE BROWN TROUT** 34 (D) W Stone 9-0 **Hollie Doyle**
6 (5) 210 **ZIM BABY** 23 (D) Paul George 8-11 **L Morris**
7 (4) 4262 **BAILEYS BLUES** 12 M Johnston 8-10 **J Mitchell**
8 (6) 062 **LAKEVIEW** 10 David Loughnane 8-7 **D Probert**

9-4 Winning Streak, 4-1 Birkenhead, 5-1 Baileys Blues, 6-1 Lakeview, 7-1 Kondratiev Wave, 10-1 Little Brown Trout, 14-1 Dazzling Des, Zim Baby.

2.45 Novice Stakes (£3,429: 1m 2f) (8)

1 (4) 13 **LOVELY LOU LOU** 23 J Ryan 3-9-5 **D Keenan (3)**
2 (6) 44306 **PASSING CLOUDS** 9 M Attwater 4-9-5 **L Morris**
3 (2) 44202 **EXMOOR BEAST** 17 P Charalambous 3-9-3 **P Mulrennan**
4 (7) 05650 **GREEK KODIAC** 100 M Quinn 3-9-3 **C Bishop**
5 (8) **JOLYON** M Scudamore 3-9-3 **L Kenlry**
6 (1) 4 **LEP** 19 M Attwater 3-9-3 **P Bradley (3)**
7 (5) **THAI TERRIER** M Johnston 3-9-3 **R Kingscote**
8 (3) 052 **MERCURY DIME** 19 E Dunlop 3-8-12 **R Havlin**

11-4 Mercury Dime, 100-30 Thai Terrier, 4-1 Exmoor Beast, 6-1 Greek Kodiac, 7-1 Lep, 8-1 Lovely Lou Lou, 20-1 Jolyon, 25-1 Passing Clouds.

3.20 Handicap (£2,782: 1m 2f) (14)

1 (1) 11401 **FAIR POWER** 16 (D) J Butler 5-9-7 **L Morris**
2 (10) 00000 **GLOBAL WONDER** 19 (CD) Suzi Best 4-9-6 **D Costello**
3 (2) 01006 **BOND ANGEL** 33 P Evans 4-9-6 **C Lee**
4 (4) 10403 **RUN AFTER GENESIS** 56 (P) B Johnson 3-9-5 **J Mitchell**
5 (3) 31253 **ENZO** 30 J Butler 4-9-5 **J Haynes**
6 (5) 66304 **SETTLE PETAL** 19 (CD) P Phelan 5-9-5 **C Bennett**
7 (12) 05000 **MR MAC** 17 (P,C) P Hedger 5-9-5 **C Bishop**
8 (6) 00003 **HE'S OUR STAR** 23 Ali Stronge 4-9-4 **Hollie Doyle**
9 (7) 00006 **CHAVARI** 30 (D) Alexandra Dunn 5-9-4 **D Muscutt**
10 (14) 30330 **CHEEKY RASCAL** 26 (V) Tom Ward 4-9-3 **T Marquand**
11 (13) 24161 **MISS ELSA** 19 (CD) Eve J-Houghton 3-9-3 **Georgia Dobie (5)**
12 (11) 31062 **DREAMBOAT DAVE** 18 (D) Mrs S Humphrey 3-9-1 **E J Walsh**
13 (9) 52100 **ARCHDEACON** 9 (P,D) D Ivory 3-8-12 **Sophie Ralston (5)**
14 (8) 00000 **SHELTER** 1 (P) A J McNamara (Ire) 3-8-9 **M Dwyer**

9-2 Fair Power, 5-1 Miss Elsa, 7-1 Run After Genesis, 8-1 Dreamboat Dave, Enzo, 10-1 Settle Petal, He's Our Star, 12-1 Shelter.

Yesterday's racing results

Doncaster

Going: good to soft

11.55 (3m 84yd hdle) 1, **Boss Man Fred** (Harry Skelton, 10-11 fav); 2, Snow Leopardess (6-1); 3, Little Bruce (16-1). 8 ran. 9l, 1¼l. D Skelton.

12.25 (2m 78yd ch) 1, **Maire Banrigh** (Harry Skelton, 7-2); 2, Baddesley Knight (13-8 fav); 3, Grey Diamond (4-1). 5 ran. 13l, 4l. D Skelton.

1.00 (2m 128yd hdle) 1, **Fantastic Ms Fox** (L P Aspell, 13-2); 2, Cuban Sun (10-1); 3, Yauthym (4-1). 13 ran. 3l, nk. Noel Williams.

1.35 (2m 4f 115yd ch) 1, **Lady Buttons** (Thomas Dowson, 11-4); 2, Happy Diva (9-2); 3, La Bague Au Roi (9-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: Sensulano. Hd, 1¼l. P A Kirby.

2.10 (2m 3f 88yd hdle) 1, **One Touch** (David Bass, 9-2); 2, Corrany (5-4 fav); 3, Demachine (22-1). 11 ran. NR: Balagan. 8l, l. B Pauling.

2.45 (2m 7f 214yd ch) 1, **Boldmere** (S Bowen, 11-4 fav); 2, Bob Mahler (6-1); 3, Slanelough (9-2). 9 ran. NR: Lookshowtlikebrian. 10l, 3½l. Mrs Caroline Bailey.

3.20 (2m 128yd hdle) 1, **Gunnery** (Nico de Boinville, 2-1 fav); 2, The Twisler (10-1); 3, Reverend Jacobs (33-1). 11 ran. NR: Zig Zag. 12l, l. N J Henderson.

Placepot: £33.20. **Quadpot: £18.30.**

Kelso

Going: soft

11.45 (2m 6f 151yd hdle) 1, **Uptown Harry** (Ross Chapman, 7-4 fav); 2, Milvale (9-2); 3, Scullys Forge (66-1). 9 ran. 9l, 15l. Mrs J Walton.

12.15 (2m 2f 25yd hdle) 1, **Animore** (Ross Chapman, 17-2); 2, Sophie Fatale (8-1); 3, She'sasupermack (25-1). 12 ran. 1½l, 10l. I Jardine.

12.50 (2m 1f 14yd ch) 1, **Clan Legend** (Lucy Alexander, 3-1); 2, Goldencard (11-5); 3, Vengeur De Guye (5-1). 4 ran. l, 16l. N W Alexander.

1.25 (2m 51yd hdle) 1, **Mario De Pail** (Charlie Deutsch, 15-8 fav); 2, Dubai Days (2-1); 3, Ballydonagh Boy (10-1). 13 ran. NR: Tortuga Bay. 12l, 3l. Sam Thomas.

2.00 (2m 6f 70yd ch) 1, **Iwilldoit** (C Brace, 11-4); 2, Talkofgold (11-2); 3, Behindthelines (25-1). 8 ran. NR: Duc De Grissay. 3l, l. Sam Thomas.

2.35 (2m 6f 151yd hdle) 1, **Bialco** (Blair Campbell, 15-2); 2, Ahead of The Curve (12-1); 3, Man Of Plenty (7-2 Co fav). 7 ran. NR: Blue Hussar. 3½l, 2½l. Miss Lucinda V Russell.

3.10 (3m 2f 39yd ch) 1, **Samstown** (Mr Connor Wood, 18-1); 2, Total Assets (3-1); 3, Late Date (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Arqalina. 8l, 3l. A C Whillans.

Placepot: £819.60. **Quadpot: £127.50.**

Southwell

Going: standard

12.05 (1m 13yd) 1, **Perregrin** (Jason Hart, 100-30); 2, Speed Dating (3-1 fav); 3, Dancing Leopard (4-1). 8 ran. Sh hd, 2l. M Johnston.

12.40 (4f 214yd) 1, **Astrozone** (L Morris, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Xian Express (7-4 jt-fav); 3, Shymay (13-2). 7 ran. ¾l, 1½l. B Smart.

1.15 (1m 13yd) 1, **Robero** (Toby Eley, 9-2); 2, Elixsoft (33-1); 3, Forseti (16-1). 9 ran. 1l, l. Miss Gay Kelleway.

1.50 (6f 16yd) 1, **Tattletime** (Phil Dennis, 7-1); 2, Atwaar (15-8 fav); 3, Gracie's Girl (12-1). 9 ran. l, 1l. David Loughnane.

2.25 (7f 14yd) 1, **Parallel World** (Harrison Shaw, 2-1 fav); 2, Milagre Da Vida (3-1); 3, I Love You Baby (6-1). 8 ran. 3l, l. K R Burke.

3.00 (4f 214yd) 1, **Moonraker** (B A Curtis, 9-4 fav); 2, Awsaaf (12-1); 3, Young Tiger (7-2). 6 ran. NR: Crosse Fire, Jonboy. 2l, 2l. M Appleby.

3.35 (1m 4f 14yd) 1, **Princess Harley** (Charles Bishop, 5-1); 2, Cold Harbour (7-2 fav); 3, Going Native (33-1). 10 ran. NR: Booborowie, Straitouttacompton. Hd, 2l. M Quinn.

Placepot: £20.30. **Quadpot: £15.50.**

Results

American football

NFL Buffalo 6 New York Jets 13; Carolina 10 New Orleans 42; Cincinnati 33 Cleveland 23; Detroit 20 Green Bay 23; Kansas City 31 Los Angeles Chargers 21; Minnesota 19 Chicago 21; New England 24 Miami 27; Tampa Bay 22 Atlanta 28 (OT)

Basketball

BBL Championship Glasgow 76 Newcastle 80; Manchester 76 Worcester 79. **Saturday** Plymouth 69 Bristol 75.

Cricket

Second Test match
Australia v New Zealand

MCG (fourth day of five): Australia beat New Zealand by 247 runs

Australia: First Innings 467 (T M Head 114, S P D Smith 85, T D Paine 79, M Labuschagne 63; N Wagner 4 for 83)
Second Innings (overnight 137-4)

M S Wade not out	30
T M Head b Wagner	28
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 2, nb 1)	11
Total (5 wkts dec, 54.2 overs)	**168**

Fall of wickets 1-62, 2-100, 3-110, 4-110, 5-168.
Bowling Boult 9-0-30-0; Southee 15-3-44-0; De Grandhomme 5-0-14-0; Wagner 17.2-1-50-3; Santner 8-0-22-1.

New Zealand: First Innings 148 (T W M Latham 50; P J Cummins 5 for 28)
Second Innings

T W M Latham c Paine b Pattinson	8
T A Blundell c Lyon b Labuschagne	121
*K S Williamson lbw b Patti nson	0
L R P L Taylor b Pattinson	2
H M Nicholls st Paine b Lyon	33
†B J Watling c Warner b Lyon	22
C de Grandhomme c Warner b Lyon	9
M J Santner c Paine b Lyon	27
T G Southee run out	2
N Wagner not out	6
Extras (lb 7, w 2, nb 1)	10
Total (71 overs)	**240**

Fall of wickets 1-32, 2-33, 3-35, 4-89, 5-161, 6-172, 7-212, 8-214, 9-240.
Bowling Starc 15-3-59-0; Cummins 18-4-47-0; Pattinson 12-3-35-3; Lyon 23-4-81-4; Labuschagne 3-1-11-1.

Umpires M Erasmus and N J Llong (England).
● Australia lead three-match series 2-0

Darts

William Hill PDC World Championship
Alexandra Palace, London: Fourth round
D Labanauskas (Lith) bt S Beaton (Eng) 4-2; L Humphries (Eng) bt K Huybrechts (Bel) 4-1; D van den Bergh (Bel) bt A Lewis (Eng) 4-3; P Wright (Scot) bt J de Zwaan (Neth) 4-3; G Durrant (Eng) bt C Dobey (Eng) 4-3; G Price (Wales) bt S Whitlock (Aus) 4-2. **Quarter-finals** N Aspinall (Eng) bt Van den Bergh 5-3; Wright bt Humphries 5-3; M van Gerwen (Neth) bt Labanauskas 5-2; Price bt Durrant 5-1.

Ice hockey

Elite League
Cardiff 5 Guildford 4; Coventry 3 Nottingham 4 (OT); Fife 1 Dundee 4; Glasgow 1 Belfast 4; Manchester 3 Sheffield 4.

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership: Exeter 14 Saracens 7. **Saturday** Bath 16 Sale 14; Harlequins 30 Leicester 30; Northampton 33 Gloucester 26; Worcester 20 London Irish 6.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Exeter	7	5	0	2	156	104	4	**24**
Northampton	7	5	0	2	194	146	3	**23**
Gloucester	7	3	0	4	149	121	6	**18**
Bristol	7	3	1	3	157	165	4	**18**
Bath	7	4	0	3	139	145	1	**17**
Worcester	7	4	0	3	122	144	1	**17**
Sale	7	3	0	4	144	105	5	**17**
Harlequins	7	3	1	3	158	169	3	**17**
Londonirish	7	2	1	4	128	179	2	**12**
Wasps	7	2	0	5	134	191	3	**11**
Leicester	7	1	1	5	118	194	0	**6**
***Saracens**	7	5	0	2	165	101	3	**-12**

* deducted 35pts for breach of salary cap

Guinness Pro14 Benetton Treviso 36 Zebre 25; Edinburgh 29 Glasgow Warriors 19; Munster 6 Leinster 13.

Sport Rugby union

Angry Exeter beat champions

Owen Slot
Chief Rugby Correspondent

Exeter Chiefs	**14**
Saracens	**7**

Such scenes in the Gallagher Premiership you rarely see. This was *the* clash of the season so far and Saracens — relentless, brilliant Saracens — failed to score a point until the penultimate minute against a home side who seemed eternally on the back foot yet were outstanding in defence, so pumped up and so delirious with every tiny victory that went their way.

It was not a game particularly notable for its high-quality execution but it was the sharp emotional knife-edge on which it was played that dominated the occasion and made it remarkable that 76 minutes passed before the fight broke out. At that point, Harry Williams, who had been replaced after being yellow-carded earlier, was shown a red for being unable to resist the fracas from the side of the pitch.

According to the referee Wayne Barnes, Williams was responsible for "escalating" the fight "through the roof". The scrap didn't actually seem so terribly bad, though what Williams was undoubtedly responsible for was conceding the penalty from which Saracens scored their try and thus claimed their single point. At the end of the season that point may prove crucial.

However, Williams's red card and the explosion in those final minutes were merely reminders of how pent-up the emotions were.

Rob Baxter, Exeter's director of rugby, said to the BBC: "There are supporters of rugby clubs who have watched coaches get the sack and players leave and all different kind of things, and part of that has been Saracens' cheating. You can't run away from it. Sometimes the people who have pointed out that Saracens have cheated almost get pointed out to be the bad guys. Well the people who have made the comment on it aren't the cheats. And that is the bit that some rugby supporters have felt more frustrated about."

Given the background behind this clash, it was a triumph for both sides that they were able to hold it together to perform like this. There cannot have been a man on the pitch not fuelled, in some way, by Saracens' salary-cap indiscretion, yet they kept a lid on their rage and let it all play out in their rugby.

The crowd were polite enough too. Yes, there was some booing, but there was more passion in the stands than any sense of indiscriminate abuse. Most striking was the way that they celebrated with their players, particularly in the second half when Saracens started to look flustered and Exeter started to feel that this was a game they could win.

The moment when Jacques Vermeulen splattered a twisting-turning Owen Farrell, for instance, or when Maro Itoje was picked up and thrust backwards — these sent massive surges of confidence through the home side and were hailed rowdily in the stands.

Did this victory feel particularly special in the dressing room afterwards? "If I said anything different, it would be ridiculous," Baxter admitted.

Did the occasion get to the Saracens players? "No," said Mark McCall, the Saracens director of rugby, "it was just a big game of rugby."

Indeed it was: big, furious, loud, tense, captivating. And it looked as though Saracens would win for most of it. They had the better of possession and spent far more time near the opposition tryline. On this occasion, and thanks largely to Exeter's defence, they could not complete the job.

One of the reasons why Exeter were able to hold off Saracens was because the England captain, Farrell, had such a dog-average day. In the first half, he missed two straightforward penalties. He was also responsible for the error that gave Exeter their first try and then for blowing a two-man overlap that would have levelled things up.

Exeter started with a litany of errors. They seemed to be playing into Saracens' hands, helping their visitors build confidence and early momentum, and just when it seemed that they might pay for it, Saracens committed a far more costly error of their own.

The mistake came from Farrell. Saracens had possession, he flung a pass in front of Max Malins that Malins could not hold. The ball went to ground and was fly-hacked through by Nic White. Simple as that: one error and a chase was on. White had the head-start and dropped on the ball to score.

Somehow, that became a lead that Exeter would hold for the entire half. They didn't deserve to keep it because their rugby was peppered with unforced errors. They defended hard and then, whenever they got turnover ball, their inaccuracies gave the ball back.

Saracens rumbled forward dangerously and always looked as if they might score. All Exeter had on them was passion, defence and a decent advantage at the scrum, with Williams a clear victor in his one-on-one with Mako Vunipola. Even that would go when Williams was yellow-carded, but still Saracens could not make their superiority tell.

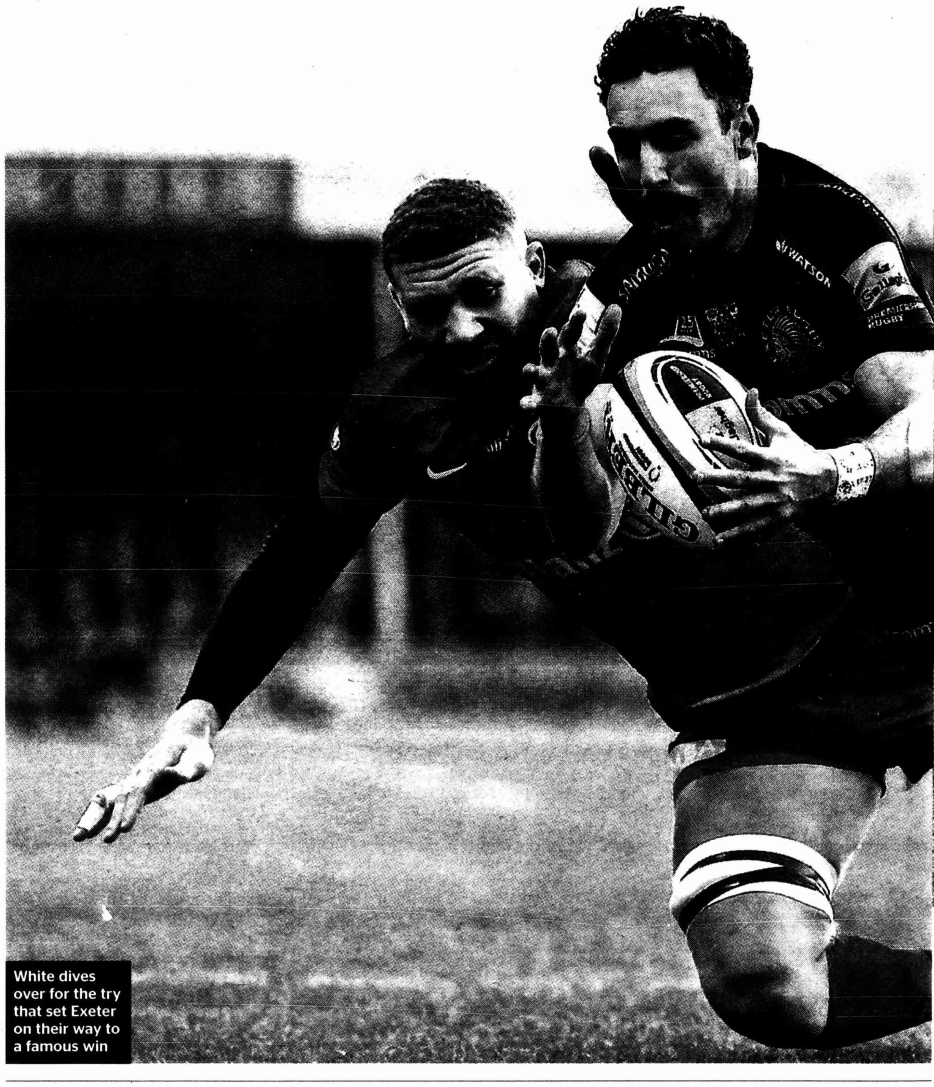
If Exeter had held on when they were nowhere near their best, how would they fare when they sharpened up a bit? We got an answer early in the second half. Exeter started being a bit more like Exeter: they held on to possession, put pressure on the visiting defence, recycled, kept coming and coming and were then rewarded in trademark style with a try from close range. Vermeulen finished it, Simmonds nailed his second conversion from wide out and suddenly the Chiefs had a cushion.

Saracens finally took a bite out of the Exeter lead when they drove a maul over in the penultimate minute. That was the maul that won them a point, and who knows whether that point will count at the end of the season? Some people believe Saracens are still in a relegation battle; others back them for a top-four finish.

As for Exeter, this game has long been looming and they are now just happy to put it behind them. "People have got to be careful if they think Exeter's only motivation is Saracens," Baxter said. "It's not. Our motivation is being successful ourselves."

Gallagher Premiership table, page 53

Scorers: Exeter Chiefs: Tries White (6min), Vermeulen (52); **Conversions** J Simmonds (7, 53). **Saracens: Tries** penalty try (79). **Scoring sequence** (Exeter first): 7-0, (half-time), 14-0, 14-7.
Exeter Chiefs S Hogg (G Steenson 77); J Nowell, I Whitten, O Devoto (S Hill 55), O Woodburn; J Simmonds, N White; A Hepburn (rep: B Moon 65), L Cowan-Dickie (E Taione 75), H Williams (sin-bin: 25-35; E Pieretto 67; sent off: 77), D Dennis, J Hill (J Kirsten 55), D Ewers (E Pieretto, 29-35; sin-bin: 77-80), J Vermeulen (D Armand 71), S Simmonds.
Saracens M Malins (A Lozowski 55); S Maitland, D Taylor, B Barritt (N Tompkins 65), E Daly; O Farrell, B Spencer (R Wigglesworth 49); M Vunipola (R Carre 65), J George, V Koch (T Lamositele 48), M Itoje (J Singleton 73), W Skelton (B Earl 49), N Isiekwe, J Wray, B Vunipola.
Referee W Barnes.
Attendance 13,593.



White dives over for the try that set Exeter on their way to a famous win

TMO (THE MONDAY OVERVIEW)

Injury, injury, they've all got an injury

Harlequins had 15 players listed as unavailable owing to injury before their match against Leicester. Then Michele Campagnaro limped off in tears, suggesting a long spell on the sidelines could await, and Kyle Sinckler was helped off by two medics in the second half. A shortage of backs, especially centres, led Harlequins to sign Tom Penny last week from Newcastle Falcons until the end of the season. One of the unavailable centres, Joe Marchant, will join up with Blues in Super Rugby next month as part of his Harlequins contract. Paul Gustard, the Harlequins head of rugby, said on Saturday there were no plans to renege on that loan.

Any takers?

As acolytes of Hugh McIlvanney like to recall, sport is the magnificent triviality. What McIlvanney did not say was that sport is also a terrific opportunity to grow your company and/or brand within the recognition arena. Scarlets know this: their new kit last season had 18 sponsors. Leicester Tigers know this too. Whenever the BT Sport cameras pan to the Leicester coaching staff, we are treated to the sight of an advertising opportunity: adorned on every laptop is "SEE YOUR BRAND HERE. SPONSOR THIS SPACE". Among myriad storylines this season, the ballad of the unbranded laptop is the most intriguing.

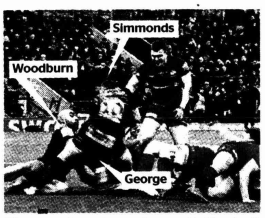
Team of the week

in grudge match

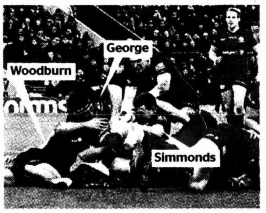
ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES; BT SPORT

Outstanding Simmonds denies George a try

Jamie George, the 17st 11lb hooker, is set to score before he is held by Joe Simmonds, the 13st 9lb fly half



Simmonds gets underneath the ball and delays George's fall, allowing Olly Woodburn to join for support



Woodburn blocks George from being able to roll over and score, as Simmonds holds the ball up

Words by Elgan Alderman

England dealt Slade blow

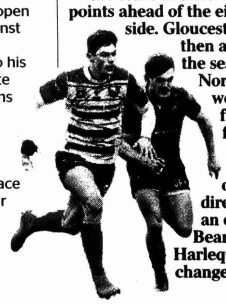
Henry Slade will miss the start of the Six Nations because of the ankle injury sustained on Gallagher Premiership duty with Exeter Chiefs. The centre was forced off in the first half of last Saturday's victory over Leicester Tigers after damaging his right ankle and has been ruled out for up to eight weeks. England open their Six Nations campaign against France on February 2.

"Henry has a small fracture to his ankle around the site of the plate he had put in a couple of seasons ago when he fractured it at Wasps," Rob Baxter, the Exeter director of rugby, said.

Slade has been a regular for England since cementing his place in the team during the 2018 tour to South Africa and was involved in the World Cup after recovering from a knee injury.

Battle for the middle ground

Early days and all that, but Gloucester (third) are only one point ahead of Harlequins (eighth). At this stage last season — which was forecast to be the most competitive Premiership of all time — the team in third were eight points ahead of the eighth-placed side. Gloucester were third then and finished the season there; Northampton were eighth and finished in fourth, with Wasps going in the opposite direction. Keep an eye on Bristol Bears and Harlequins; a lot can change.



20

Months without a sell-out crowd for Worcester Warriors at Sixways before their victory over London Irish.

18y 329d

Louis Rees-Zammit became the youngest player to score a hat-trick in the Premiership, for Gloucester against Northampton.

Pidgin French won't stop Edwards getting through to Les Bleus

Stuart Barnes

The target is 2023 but don't write off 2020 as being another year of Shaun Edwards. It is impossible to overstate his towering achievements. Eight championships and nine Challenge Cups at Wigan. He is one of rugby league's greatest players. The 53-year-old's coaching career has been almost as successful. He has won two European Cups and four Premiership titles with Wasps; a launchpad to an illustrious period in which he breathed sufficient fire into the dragons for Wales to win three grand slams. Yet the future hints at even more glory.

His decision to join France as defence coach should have sent shock waves rippling through their Six Nations rivals. So far the seismic combination of Edwards and those shoulder-shrugging French failures hasn't been hogging the headlines it merits. That, though, will change soon enough.

If Les Bleus beat England on the opening Sunday of the Six Nations Championship (February 2), Edwards will reappear on the back pages. A decade since winning a grand slam is far too long for a nation with such resources as France. This present crop have some outstanding young talent. A couple of locks need to sprout but otherwise the shoots of recovery are in place. With a World Cup to be hosted in their own country in 2023, Edwards has a shot at the one tournament where he has not won any silverware.

Edwards is not the first former league man to take on French defensive duties. Dave Ellis built French barricades for 11 years, until 2011. Five Six Nations titles, two grand slams, an epic defensive effort against the All Blacks in the never-to-be-forgotten tryline stand during the 2007 World Cup quarter-final in Cardiff and Ellis's immense role in holding New Zealand to eight points in the 2011 final. France have never been closer to global rugby glory.

Ellis is an example of just how important the right selection can be — of coach as well as player. He applied for the post of Leicester Tigers defensive coach just over a year ago but they opted elsewhere. Since then they have not stopped leaking tries.

A forgotten guru, Ellis is now coaching Kenilworth in Midlands West One. They are flying high in second place, having been promoted under the 62-year-old last season, his first campaign at the helm. Leicester's loss was Kenilworth's gain.

Now Edwards is establishing himself as a key part of Fabien Galthié's coaching jigsaw. Filling Edwards' boots will be quite a test for the new Welsh defence coach, Byron Hayward. As for France, 2023 is a long-stated aspiration but don't underestimate the 2020 Edwards effect.

There are problems that need to be overcome. Language is the first and foremost of them. Edwards has given Franglais a go in a few early interviews but the lack of French fluency remains the biggest worry, especially given the nature of how this defence coach works. There is plenty of rugby intellect involved but that old Wigan heart and soul is the essence of the man.

In the initial days he might have to create his own rugby sign language. Not to tell which player where to stand, what to do, but to express the determination, the ferocity of the Edwards rugby language.

To some extent rugby is a universal code (although try telling that to French, Italian and Argentine players when they stand by, bemused, as referees address them and English speaking front rows in English) but Edwards's art is as much about pressing the right emotional buttons, in High Wycombe, Cardiff or Paris.

Language makes this the toughest challenge of his career but France's squad in the process of assembly is hugely exciting.

Anybody watching recent European fixtures will have noted the exceptional ability on display. Toulouse, Clermont Auvergne and Racing 92 play as pretty and powerful a brand of rugby as any side in Europe. But there's also that flakiness that you simply do not see from Anglo/Irish heavyweights like Saracens and Leinster.

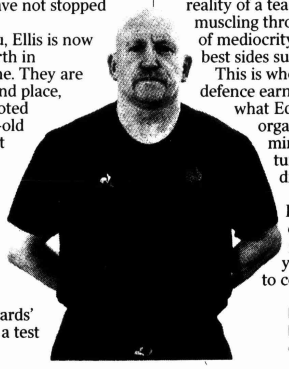
Edwards has always been more than a defence coach. To understand defence you must have a good idea of what is going on in the mind of your attacking counterparts. And then there is the capacity to inspire. Edwards is gruff, he growls, but he gets through to his men.

What he wants — or rather demands — are standards. Standards of commitment and integrity that have been lacking in the past decade of the French international game. Stupidity in the form of a pointless elbow cost them what should have been victory against an inferior Welsh team in this year's World Cup quarter-final. Wales gritted it out in a way France have failed to for so long.

Their first 40 minutes of the World Cup against Argentina was spellbinding. It was among the best halves of rugby in the tournament. That was the potential of a young French XV. The flipside was the reality of a team incapable of muscling through those periods of mediocrity which even the best sides suffer.

This is when a voracious defence earns its corn. This is what Edwards guarantees; organised brutality and a mindset automatically tuned to the winner dial.

Illustrious as Edwards' coaching career has been, the greatest coaching years may well be yet to come.



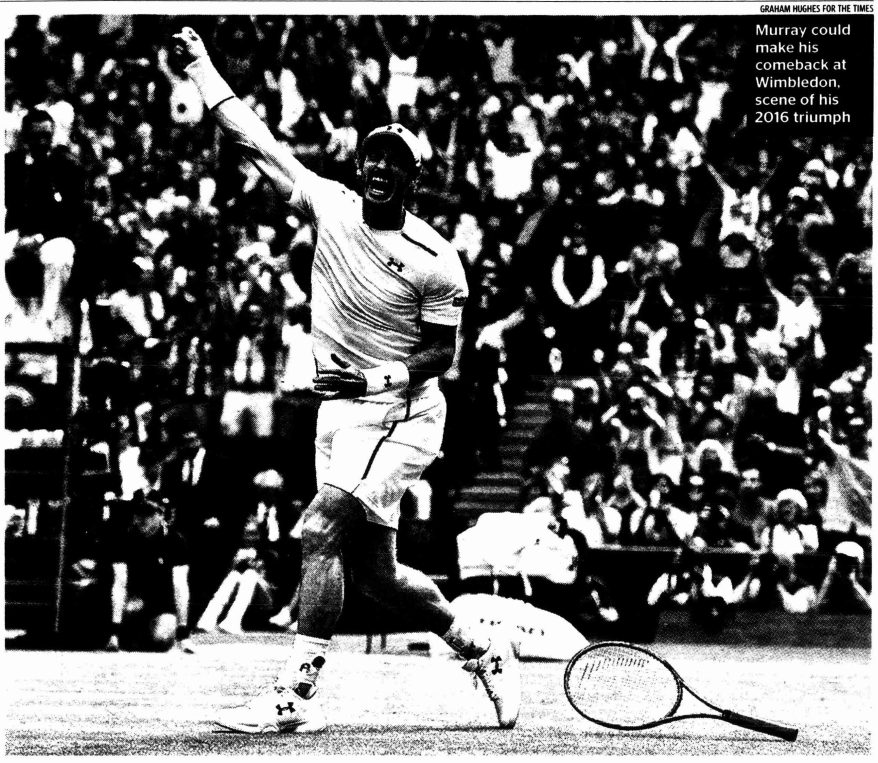
Edwards has a language barrier to overcome in new role

Sport

Murray blow puts focus on Wimbledon

The Scot's grand-slam return is on hold after new injury setback, **Stuart Fraser** writes

GRAHAM HUGHES FOR THE TIMES



Murray could make his comeback at Wimbledon, scene of his 2016 triumph

True to form, Andy Murray did everything he could to try to make a return to grand-slam action at next month's Australian Open. During a festive trip to visit family in Scotland over the past week, the 32-year-old spent several hours on the court with his coach Jamie Delgado to determine whether he could overcome the pain from a lingering pelvic injury.

Eventually, Murray came to the realisation that this was a step too far. As satisfying as it would have been to return a year later to the place where he broke down in tears and admitted he was on the brink of retirement, competing at Melbourne Park would have gone against his and his team's pledge to be extremely careful in managing his schedule.

"We have no idea what is around the corner," Matt Little, Murray's fitness trainer, said last month while analysing his client's remarkable comeback from hip-resurfacing surgery. That has quickly proven to be the case here, a bruise to the pelvic bone derailing Murray's plans to start the season in Australia. On Saturday, he withdrew from the Great Britain team for the new ATP Cup team event and then informed Australian Open organisers that he no longer required the wild card that had been set aside for him.

"I've worked so hard to get myself into a situation where I can play at the top level and I'm gutted I'm not going to be able to play in Australia in January," Murray said. "Unfortunately I've had a setback recently and as a precaution, I need to work through that before I get back on court competing."

As deeply disappointing as this is for Murray and his many fans, it is a sensible decision. Rushing back to contest the best-of-five-set format when not at full fitness would have been foolish after all he has been through in recent years. He had no expectation anyway of embarking on a deep run through the Australian Open draw, as shown recently by the announcement that he will play at the Open Sud de France in Montpellier, which starts on February 3, the day after the final in Melbourne.

It is better for Murray to look further ahead and focus on doing all that he can to be in prime condition for Wimbledon, where his best chance lies of adding to his tally of three grand-slam titles. Bear in mind that two years ago he was within one set of reaching the semi-finals at the All England Club on one leg, after his right hip had worsened weeks before. He will be confident of doing well on the grass, a unique surface on which many of the up-and-coming players are still struggling to get their head around.

Wimbledon will now probably host Murray's grand-slam comeback as there seems next to no chance that he will appear at the French Open. Clay is a gruelling surface that would present a brutal test for his body. It would be wise to concentrate on the later part of summer, which also includes the Olympics in Tokyo. There, he will bid for a third consecutive gold medal, and it is to his benefit that all matches are now contested over the best of three sets.

There will no doubt be more twists and turns to come. Little admitted recently that planning Murray's schedule is difficult, as there is still so much uncertainty surrounding the physical capabilities of a man with a metal cap inserted into his hip. As experienced in his pelvic area, other parts of the body will come under more pressure than before.

"I have no idea what he is thinking in some respects, and I think he hasn't got any idea either," Little said. "That's the difficulty in even planning a schedule. Long-term planning is virtually impossible in tennis anyway. Never mind throwing in a metal hip that no one has ever had before.

"It's going to be a real suck-it-and-see-it year from that perspective. We used to just write it. We would know his schedule, barring one or two events and exhibitions here or there. That is just not the case any more.

"We don't know how this thing will react. One week could be amazing. The next week something else could flare up.

"It's not just the right hip. In fact the right hip is the best thing about his body right now. It's a brand new metal joint. It's his other hip, his shoulders, his back, his knees, all these other things which will all bear the brunt of competition as well. They will probably be working even harder to support that right hip.

"It's a completely unknown entity. We just cannot make any predictions or preparations especially for the year.

"It's going through the process of preparing him for matches, seeing how he goes, reviewing it afterwards and starting again."

James Ward, the 32-year-old Londoner who has performed heroics in the Davis Cup during his career, will take Murray's place in the ATP Cup, an event that starts for Britain with a group match against Bulgaria in Sydney on Friday.

Notable dates for Murray before Wimbledon

February 3-9: Open Sud de France, Montpellier Murray will return to the tour at this ATP 250 tournament, being held in the week immediately after the Australian Open

March 9-22: Indian Wells Masters, California A chance to play one of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer at the first ATP Masters event of the season

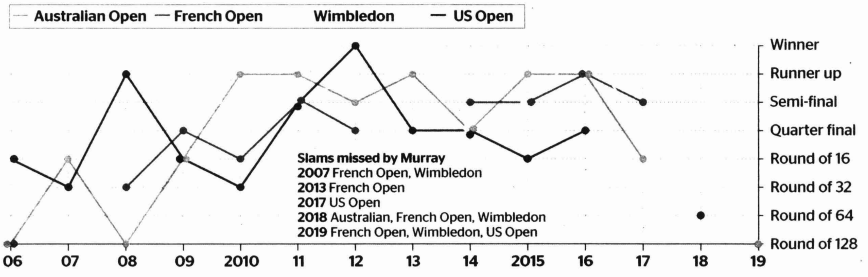
March 23-April 5: Miami Open, Florida Another Masters event that will provide a good test for Murray's fitness in the city where he has regularly trained in the past

May 31-June 7: Surbiton Trophy, London Instead of playing at the French Open, Murray could begin his grass season at this second-tier ATP Challenger tournament

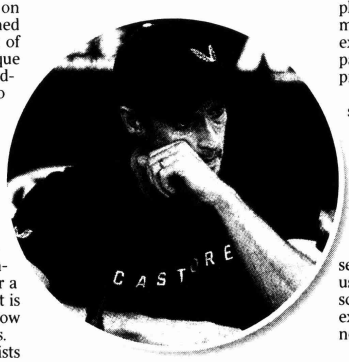
June 15-21: Fever-Tree Championships, London Murray has regularly performed well at the Queen's Club in this pre-Wimbledon event

June 29-July 12: The Championships, Wimbledon Potentially Murray's first appearance at a grand-slam tournament since the Australian Open in January 2018

His grand-slams singles record



Murray was hoping for a grand-slam return at the Australian Open, where this year he had tearfully announced that he was considering retirement



Australia claim unassailable 2-0 series lead over New Zealand

Cricket

Nathan Lyon took four wickets as Australia completed a crushing 247-run victory on day four of the Boxing Day Test against New Zealand to claim an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

After setting an improbable 488-run victory target, Tim Paine's side bowled the Black Caps out for 240 after tea, with Lyon (four for 81) breaking their resistance at the MCG after a withering pace assault by James Pattinson (three for 35) in the morning.

With the series secured, Australia have lengthened their undefeated series run against their trans-Tasman neighbours to 30 years, leaving New Zealand playing only for pride in the third and final Test in Sydney starting on Thursday.

Having thrashed Kane Williamson's team by 296 runs in the day-night opener in Perth, Australia have claimed victory in four successive Tests since retaining the Ashes in England.

New Zealand opener Tom Blundell delayed the inevitable with a brilliant 121 before he was last man out, caught by Lyon off the part-time leg spinner Marnus Labuschagne.

"They've got a fantastic attack with pace and bounce but their accuracy stood apart. They got more out of that surface," Williamson, who had opted to bowl after winning the toss, said.

Siddle decides to hang up baggy green

Peter Siddle, the Australia fast bowler, has announced his retirement from international cricket aged 35 after taking 221 wickets in a distinguished 67-Test career. He will continue to play domestic cricket in Australia and county cricket in England for the champions Essex.

Has Bairstow run out of chances?

Simon Wilde
Centurion

Cape Town holds a special place in Jonny Bairstow's heart. This was where, three years ago, he scored his maiden Test hundred and after such a long wait — he was playing his 22nd match — it was a particularly sweet moment.

He had also recently regained the wicketkeeping gloves and this performance, burnished as it was by forming part of what still stands as a world Test record partnership for the sixth wicket of 399 with Ben Stokes, launched him on three fine years as England's No1 wicketkeeper-batsman. He would score five hundreds in that role.

Returning to the Cape this week — the team fly there from Johannesburg tomorrow — will therefore be a doleful experience for Bairstow because he is highly unlikely to play in the Test starting on Friday unless the sickness and flu bugs in the camp lay low one of the other middle-order batsmen.

Once a central figure of the side, Bairstow now finds himself on the margins. At the end of the summer he was dropped from the team, told he had lost the gloves to Jos Buttler and that he should go away and work on his game. The message was to reinvent himself as a batsman.

Ironically, part of this process involved him joining a training camp in Cape Town along with a group of England fast bowlers including James Anderson and Mark Wood, who were recovering from injury and preparing for the South Africa tour.

It is early days, but this tactical switch does not seem to be working out for either Bairstow, who yesterday completed a miserable personal match in Centurion, or Buttler, who has scored 77 runs in four innings this winter and seems at a loss as to how he might add to his one hundred in 38 Test appearances. In New Zealand he was bowled not playing a shot.

The idea that Bairstow may be able to forge a Test career purely as a batsman is based largely on a hundred he scored in Colombo in November 2018 when he returned to the side after damaging an ankle and Ben Foakes kept wicket. But that is to miss the point that Bairstow batted the way he did that day largely because he was incensed at having lost out to Foakes and sat out one match while fit waiting to get his place back. In terms of the Test team, it is hard to think of a bigger self-inflicted wound in recent times.

And if this was not enough, Bairstow was not included in those recognised in the new year's honours list for winning the World Cup, even though he was the man who scored match-winning centuries in two must-win games. This was not the fault of the England management but it cannot have helped his mood.

That said, there is no getting away from the facts of what has just happened at SuperSport Park. Bairstow played two poor shots to get out and his match haul of ten runs was the lowest of anyone in England's top eight.

It won't spare him from criticism that he was originally set to miss the match and it was only as the team continued to battle illness that his involvement became an 11th-hour possibility. Ollie Pope, who was earmarked to bat No6, fell ill on Christmas Day but was still expected to recover in time for the 10am start on Boxing Day.

Joe Root, the England captain, said yesterday that such was the confusion as to who may or may not have been fit, that on the morning of the match 15 players trained as though preparing to play. Bairstow was one of them. He duly played when Pope was deemed too ill. Then, on the third day of the game, Buttler also went down ill, which meant Bairstow was drafted in as stand-in wicketkeeper. Every sportsman craves stability in their roles, but Bairstow more than most.

These are the extenuating circumstances but they cannot excuse how he got out. In the first innings he was bowled by a 91mph ball from Anrich Nortje that kept slightly low, but in any case Bairstow looked late on his shot and he was hanging on the crease when he would have been better going forward. It was the 13th time Bairstow had been bowled in his past 18 Tests.

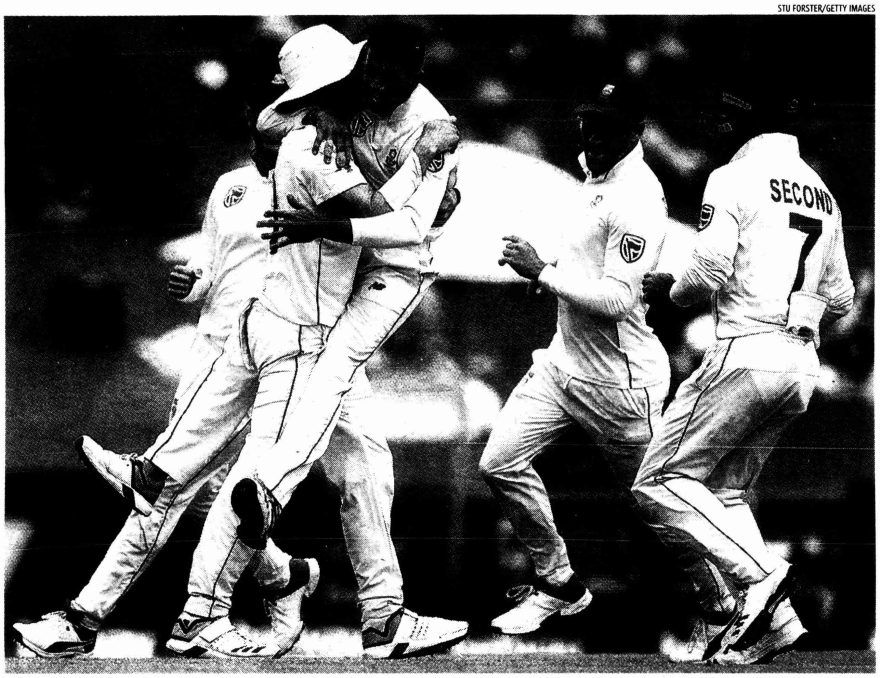
In the second innings, as fate would have it, he arrived at the crease shortly before the second new ball was due. When it arrived, Bairstow clipped the first ball from Kagiso Rabada off his legs for four. Nice shot, nice feeling, and surely Rabada would respond with a bouncer. But he was cleverer than that. The next ball was full outside off stump and Bairstow, who had hung back in anticipation, failed to move his feet, flung out his hands — and thick-edged the ball straight to gully.

Bairstow was far from the only one to fall for such tricks. Sam Curran also got out the ball after hitting a boundary in expectation of a short ball, and overall England lost 11 wickets in the match to catches edged to wicketkeeper, slips and gully.

Opponents are also using tactics designed to counter England's new plan to bat time and rein in their shots. It is hardly rocket science but they bowl a succession of straight balls, then hang something wider outside off stump and see if they can draw them into fishing at it. It worked a treat for New Zealand in the Test at Mount Maunganui and it worked well here at Centurion, where England shed seven wickets for 39 in the first innings and six for 46 in the second.

● *Simon Wilde is Cricket Correspondent of* The Sunday Times

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES



Maharaj celebrates with his team-mates after claiming the wicket of England dangerman Stokes at Centurion yesterday

South Africa seamers win game of patience

Elizabeth Ammon

South Africa's seamers hit the lengths required on the SuperSport Park pitch and highlighted just how dreadful England had been on Saturday morning, when they conceded 125 runs in the session. South Africa did not overuse the short ball as England had but where it was deployed it was effective because it was being used as an element of surprise interspersed between probing good-length and fuller-length balls. Vernon Philander set the tone for the final day by bowling four successive maidens at Rory Burns, who had been ticking along nicely at a strike rate of 77 on the previous evening, and that disciplined bowling at the start set up the wicket from the short ball by Anrich Nortje.

Knowing the second new ball would be key, the trio of Kagiso Rabada, Philander and Nortje bowled with accuracy and patience and conceded only 50 runs in the first session. That discipline then allowed them to exploit the second new ball.

Stars of the decade

Best bowling averages in Tests of those with 150 or more wickets in the 2010s

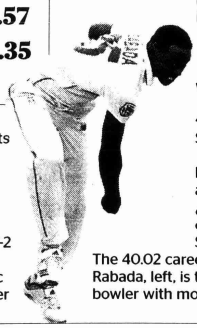
Player	Wickets	Average
Vernon Philander South Africa	220	**21.99**
Dale Steyn South Africa	267	**22.29**
Kagiso Rabada South Africa	190	**22.57**
James Anderson England	429	**24.35**

The supporting cast

Accompanying the maestros were two seamers playing their first Tests in South Africa. Their figures were not too shabby.
Anrich Nortje 29-6-103-5
Dwaine Pretorius 24-8-49-2

Keshav Maharaj's figures of 16-3-37-2 do not scream excitement but he took the crucial wickets of Dominic Sibley and Ben Stokes. For a spinner at Centurion, those are elite numbers. Since Paul Harris took five for 123 in December 2009, only one spin bowler has had better innings figures than Maharaj's at the ground (Ravindra Jadeja for India, 38.5-10-113-4, January 2018).

Lethal at home



Philander and Rabada's records in South Africa.

Philander 142 wickets at 18.48
42.27 Strike rate

Rabada 134 wickets at 19.40
32.74 Strike rate

The 40.02 career strike rate of Rabada, left, is the best by any Test bowler with more than 150 wickets.

England

Words by Simon Wilde

6 **RORY BURNS**
Fell to a pearler from Philander in the first innings and crafted a fine 84 in the second before throwing it away with a rash heave

4 **DOMINIC SIBLEY**
Rabada's extra bounce was too much for him in the first innings but he applied himself well second time around until his tame dismissal

7 **JOE DENLY**
Played two more gutsy innings (50 off 111 balls, 31 off 79) that adhered to England's "bat time" blueprint. Settling into the No3 role nicely

5 **JOE ROOT**
Controversially chose to bowl first and relied too much on short-ball tactics. Batted well until he nibbled at balls he should have left

5 **BEN STOKES**
His dad's illness put his involvement in doubt; dehydration then prevented him bowling. Gave away two good starts with the bat

3 **JONNY BAIRSTOW**
Only played because of Ollie Pope's illness and did nothing to merit keeping his place; technical flaws twice cost him his wicket

4 **JOS BUTTLER**
Continued to bat against type, only opening his shoulders once the game was lost. Would the real Buttler please stand up?

6 **SAM CURRAN**
The least culpable of the seamers, returning Test-best figures of four for 58 in the first innings. All four were top-seven batsmen

6 **JOFRA ARCHER**
Struggled for rhythm and overdid the short ball, but took six wickets and rattled Du Plessis's cage. Time to give him the new ball?

5 **STUART BROAD**
Had to feel his way into the game after illness. Finished with four first-innings wickets but was the least effective seamer in the second

4 **JAMES ANDERSON**
A disappointing 150th Test; looked rusty and partly responsible for letting South Africa off the hook at 111 for five on day one

Total **55/110**

Bruised Root swallowed

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent, Centurion

South Africa v England

SuperSport Park (fourth day of five): South Africa beat England by 107 runs

A year of living dangerously finally caught up with England in Centurion. It came to a shuddering full stop on the highveld, on a cool and cloudy day, under an onslaught from a South Africa team who displayed some of the classic characteristics of cricketers from these parts, a combination of discipline and fire that proved too much for an England side hoping to add a final, finishing gloss to a year of miracle-making.

The gamble that Joe Root took at the start of the game, by bowling first on a pitch renowned for being at its most difficult towards the end of the game, swallowed him up on the fourth afternoon.

As the second new ball beckoned, Root was there in the middle, the boy on the burning deck, showing tremendous fortitude by taking blows to hands, forearm and ribs from South Africa's quick bowlers as the ball began to dart and deviate off the cracks. It can be a cruel game at times.

Where was the game lost? Certainly not yesterday, when England's second innings reflected what was a par score for the conditions. No, you have to go back to the first two days, and to the first-innings deficit of 103. England's decision to play five seamers was vindicated by the conditions, even though Keshav Maharaj took the vital wicket of Ben Stokes in the second innings, but the decision at the toss meant there was essentially one way to win the game, and that could realistically come only with a significant first-innings lead.

England will argue that they had their chances. South Africa were 111 for five on day one, and England were 142 for three at one stage in reply. True enough, but these chances were spurned and the lethargy of the bowling on the first day, Sam Curran apart, was costly, as was the collapse to 181 all out. From that moment on defeat was likely. Some senseless bowling on the third day was put into proper perspective by South Africa's seamers on the fourth, as they hammered away at the kind of length that was apparently quarantined for England, so often was it ignored.

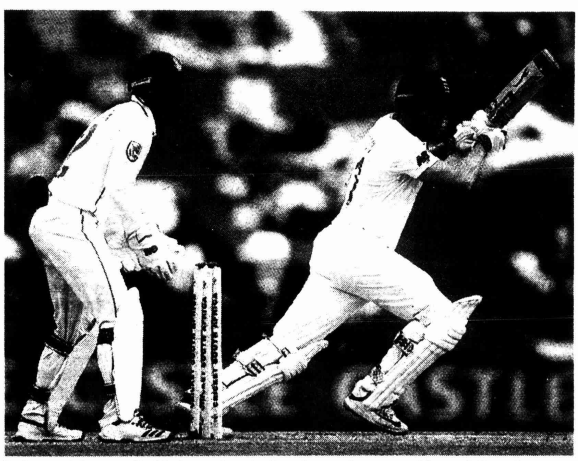
Ten players (and five back-room staff) were subject to quarantines of various degrees of strictness, because of the lurgy sweeping through the team and that provides some context to this defeat. This was a very tough Test for England's management, given all the problems, although they were wise enough not to use them as an excuse afterwards.

Still, optimism that England could add another chapter to the 2019 story that included a World Cup final win and an Ashes Test at Headingley for the ages, was certainly not misplaced at the start of the day. The game was South Africa's to lose, though, a feeling that can often transmit nerves and anxiety to key performers, especially given that two of the home seamers were new to the highest level. Neither they, nor the more experienced pair of Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander, let their captain down. Under pressure, they held their nerve.

While the second new ball, which arrived an hour after lunch, was always going to be vital, the more significant cricket came before that. South Africa managed to take three wickets before it arrived, as well as to keep the batsmen under lock and key, which meant that there was too much to do after that. When the second new ball arrived, Rory Burns, Joe Denly and, crucially, Stokes had already been dismissed, while only 97 runs were added in the 39 overs to that point.

The day began with Burns put under immense pressure by Philander, who bowled four consecutive maidens — each ball delivered precisely for maximum discomfort. A change of ends allowed the left-hander to pick up his first run after 30 minutes, and then only courtesy of a close-run thing to short leg, who shied at the stumps, Burns having tucked the ball to leg and out of his ground.

So, when Burns pulled the second ball from the first-change bowler, Anrich Nortje, high to mid-on, pouncing too eagerly on his first real scoring opportunity, the victory belonged as much to Philander.



Bairstow hits an off-side boundary before becoming one of four victims for the outstanding Rabada in what was a difficult Test for the Yorkshireman

Denly enjoyed a battle royal at the other end against Rabada, a thick-edged four to third man and a pulled six, the only scoring shots of the opening thrusts, before Burns got off the mark.

There was some evidence of uneven bounce, but two balls that climbed and one that kept low all did so off cracks conveniently outside the line of the stumps. A second hooked six that flew close to an unsighted Nortje at fine leg saw the back of Rabada, and England emerged from a combative opening hour, full of top-class cricket, relatively unscathed.

Denly, having played with steely resolution for the second time in the match, was dismissed to a marginal leg-before call shortly after drinks, which brought Stokes to the crease with 218 runs required, the same number, bizarrely, as when he walked to the crease at Headingley against Australia in August.

Like then, he began diligently, intent on defence, until the sight of Maharaj, ten overs from the second new ball, encouraged him to change tack. Maharaj's

Talking points

By Elizabeth Ammon

Decade of poor England starts

England have had a decade of disappointment in the first match of their away series, starting with a draw against South Africa in the 2009-10 winter.

2009-10 v S Africa (Centurion) Draw
2010 v Australia (Brisbane) Draw
2010 v Bangladesh (Chittagong) Won by 181 runs
2012 v India (Ahmedabad) Lost by ten wickets
2012 v Pakistan (Dubai) Lost by ten wickets
2013 v New Zealand (Dunedin) Draw
2013 v Australia (Brisbane) Lost by 381 runs
2015 v West Indies (North Sound) Draw
2015 v Pakistan (Abu Dhabi) Draw
2015 v South Africa (Centurion) Won by 241 runs
2016 v India (Rajkot) Draw
2016 v Bangladesh (Chittagong) Won by 22 runs
2017 v Australia (Brisbane) Lost by 10 wickets
2018 v Sri Lanka (Galle) Won by 211 runs
2018 v New Zealand (Auckland) Lost by an innings and 49 runs
2019 v West Indies (Bridgetown) Lost by 381 runs
2019 v New Zealand (Mount Maunganui) Lost by an innings and 65 runs
2019 v South Africa (Centurion) Lost by 107 runs

17 matches **4** wins

Spinner halts Stokes heroics

The wicket of Ben Stokes was the turning point on the final day and a mark of very good captaincy by Faf du Plessis in the lead-up to the second new ball. Stokes had ground his way to four from 42 balls, in similar fashion to the start of his heroic Headingley innings in last summer's Ashes, but he unveiled some expansive shots once Keshav Maharaj was bought into the attack. Du Plessis held his nerve, kept Maharaj on, and the spinner induced an inside edge on to the stumps. It was a key moment. When Stokes is at the crease, there is belief among the team, the supporters and the opposition that anything can happen. His wicket prompted England's slide towards defeat.

What to do about Bairstow?

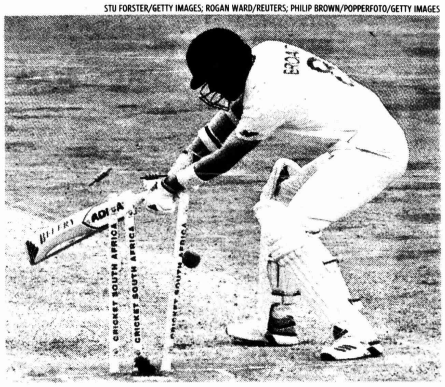
Although he was back in the side only because of Ollie Pope's illness, it has to be questioned whether Jonny Bairstow should be in the squad at all. He is averaging 18.55 with the bat in ten Tests in 2019 and if he is not keeping wicket there must be a better return than that.

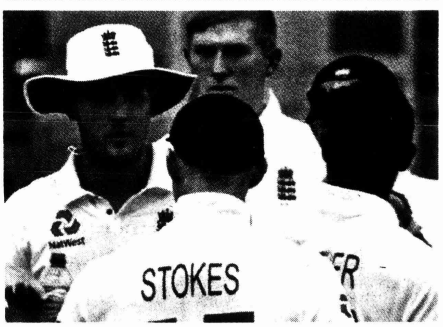
Having dropped him for the New Zealand tour to "go away and work on a few things", it seems odd that he was brought straight back in having had limited time to work on anything. Would it not have been better to let him have a long break? It is almost certain that if Pope recovers fully in time for the second Test in Cape Town, which begins on Friday, he will be back in the No 6 slot.

Simon Wilde, page 57

up by his own gamble

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES; ROGAN WARD/REUTERS; PHILIP BROWN/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES





Tensions had flared between Broad and Stokes at drinks on Saturday, bottom image, but the pair had apparently put the disagreement to bed before yesterday's play. Stokes managed 14 before being bowled by Maharaj, below, and Broad scored six before he was the last wicket to fall. Root's effort to stop the collapse was ended by Nortje, main image

first over, the 71st of the innings, went for three fours, two to Stokes and one to Root, and Faf du Plessis faced a key decision, then: to back his spinner, who looked visibly tight, or to go the traditional South African way, and turn again to his seamers.

Maharaj it was, with a small high five from the captain just before the spinner's next over, as if to say: I believe in you, even if no one else does. It worked: Maharaj's third ball of his second over was wide enough to tempt Stokes to cut, but not too wide to miss the rough and Stokes chopped on. There was to be no Headingley repeat.

It was no surprise, then, that the second new ball hurried the match to its conclusion, although Philander was as disappointing with it, as he had been outstanding at the start of the day. Instead it was Rabada, with a bone-breaking spell of seven overs, and Nortje, enjoying a fine match with bat and ball, who did the damage, the latter picking up Root on the drive, and Rabada snuffing out any hopes of a lower-middle order counterpunch, by dismissing Jonny Bairstow, Curran and Jos Buttler, the latter ninth out on the slog.

The sight of Stuart Broad and James Anderson surrounded by South Africa's chattering fielders, and facing up to the quickest bowlers of the match in Rabada and Nortje, brought to mind images of a kill on the African plains. Broad took a shuddering blow to the grille of his helmet before losing his stumps to Rabada, after which joyous celebrations began for a team who had suffered five consecutive Test defeats, but have been re-energised.

For South Africa, it was an uplifting result after a year of administrative chaos, and marked a bright start under a new head coach, Mark Boucher. For England, it was a defeat that brought closure to an extraordinary year of triumph, mainly, and disaster; a year when the one-day team touched the heights and when the Test team veered between moments of brilliance and despair. England, it must be said, are rarely dull, but in the Test arena, at least, there is a lot of work to do.

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Root blames bowlers for defeat

to be tempered by the fact that England were badly hampered by flu and sickness sweeping through the camp.

"We fought hard to get back in the game," Root said. "In terms of character, the last two days, I can't fault anyone. We're not going to hide behind it as an excuse, but 14 of our squad have been taken ill in the last week and a half. Ben [Stokes], in particular, has had to deal with his father's illness. We've had a lot thrown at us."

This was the seventh time in 12 Tests this year that England had trailed by more than 100 runs in the first innings. "When we find ourselves behind the game we show a lot of character, fight and determination, and we find ways of getting ourselves back into fixtures," Root said. "We need to do that at the start, get ahead, and when we get the opportunity to turn the screw, we really need to do it, with bat and ball. That's where this game was lost."

Scoreboard from Centurion

SOUTH AFRICA First Innings	R	B
D Elgar c Buttler b Anderson *Gloved down leg side*	0	1
A K Markram c Bairstow b Curran *Tame flick to mid-wicket*	20	23
Zubayr Hamza c Stokes b Broad *Leaden-footed prod to slip*	39	72
***F du Plessis** c Root b Broad *Set up, edged wider ball*	29	80
H E van der Dussen c Root b Curran *Inswinger took edge*	6	34
†Q de Kock c Buttler b Curran *Late movement, faint edge*	95	128
D Pretorius c Root b Curran *Deceived by straighter ball*	33	45
V D Philander c Buttler b Broad *A nibbler that found an edge*	35	81
K A Maharaj c Stokes b Archer *Stuck on crease, took edge*	6	15
K Rabada b Broad *Beaten through gate*	12	24
A Nortje not out	0	6
Extras (lb 4, nb 2, w 3)	9	
TOTAL (84.3 overs)	284	

Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-32, 3-71, 4-97, 5-111, 6-198, 7-245, 8-252, 9-277.

Bowling Anderson 20-4-69-1; Broad 18.3-4-58-4; Curran 20-5-58-4; Archer 19-4-65-1; Root 4-0-26-0; Denly 3-0-4-0.

SOUTH AFRICA Second Innings	R	B
A K Markram lbw b Anderson *Full and straight, struck on pads*	2	5
D Elgar c Buttler b Archer *Nipped off seam, inside edge*	22	27
Zubayr Hamza c Buttler b Broad *Sliding leg side, tickled it*	4	16
***F du Plessis** c Curran b Archer *Snaffled at backward square*	20	28
H E van der Dussen lbw b Archer *Full and straight, hit knee-roll*	51	67
A Nortje c Sub b Archer *Fended away, taken at short leg*	40	89
†Q de Kock c Bairstow b Stokes *Tickled through to keeper*	34	37
D Pretorius c Sibley b Stokes *Thick edge flies at slip*	7	7
V D Philander c Bairstow b Curran *Attempted cut shot, feathered it*	46	68
K A Maharaj c Curran b Archer *Ugly heave, mowed to long leg*	11	16
K Rabada not out	16	12
Extras (b 5, lb 3, w 9, nb 2)	19	
TOTAL (61.4 overs)	272	

Fall of wickets 1-2, 2-25, 3-29, 4-62, 5-153, 6-170, 7-177, 8-220, 9-250.

Bowling Anderson 13-1-47-1; Broad 11-2-42-1; Archer 17-1-102-5; Curran 12.4-3-51-1; Stokes 8-1-22-2.

ENGLAND First Innings	R	B
R J Burns c De Kock b Philander *Peach of a ball on off stump*	9	15
D P Sibley c De Kock b Rabada *Ripped out fending off back foot*	4	12
J L Denly c De Kock b Pretorius *Good length, inside edge*	50	111
***J E Root** c De Kock b Philander *Tickled to the keeper*	29	49
B A Stokes c De Kock b Nortje *Round the wicket, finds the edge*	35	46
J M Bairstow b Nortje *Bowled after misreading line*	1	6
†J C Buttler c De Kock b Philander *Sharp bounce, flying outside edge*	12	39
S M Curran c Hamza b Rabada *Brilliantly snaffled at short leg*	20	24
J C Archer b Philander *Hit the top of off stump*	3	11
S C J Broad c Elgar b Rabada *Jabbed straight to gully*	2	7
J M Anderson not out	0	2
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 5, nb 2)	16	
TOTAL (53.2 overs)	181	

Fall of wickets 1-11, 2-15, 3-70, 4-142, 5-143, 6-150, 7-176, 8-176, 9-181.

Bowling Rabada 15-1-68-3; Philander 14.2-8-16-4; Pretorius 8-2-23-1; Nortje 12-2-47-2; Maharaj 4-1-18-0.

ENGLAND Second Innings	R	B
R J Burns c Rabada b Nortje *Top-edged to mid-on*	84	154
D P Sibley c and b Maharaj *Length ball, plopped back*	29	90
J L Denly lbw b Pretorius *Pitched up, hitting front pad*	31	79
***J E Root** c De Kock b Nortje *Extra pace, drew the edge*	48	101
B A Stokes b Maharaj *Bottom-edge, hits edge of stump*	14	55
J M Bairstow c Hamza b Rabada *Thick edge, caught by gully*	9	25
†J C Buttler c Pretorius b Rabada *Steep top edge, to deep midwicket*	22	33
S M Curran c De Kock b Rabada *Perfect line, feathered an edge*	9	10
J C Archer c Van der Dussen b Nortje *Steered it to slip*	4	5
S C J Broad b Rabada *Stumps exposed*	6	6
J M Anderson not out	0	0
Extras (b 8, lb 3, w 1)	12	
TOTAL (93 overs)	268	

Fall of wickets 1-92, 2-139, 3-158, 4-204, 5-222, 6-232, 7-251, 8-256, 9-262.

Bowling Rabada 24-3-103-4; Philander 20-8-35-0; Nortje 17-4-56-3; Pretorius 16-6-26-1; Maharaj 16-3-37-2.

Umpires C B Gaffaney (New Zealand) and P R Reiffel (Australia). **Man of the match** Q de Kock. **Series details Second Test:** Jan 3-7 (Cape Town). **Third Test:** Jan 16-20 (Port Elizabeth). **Fourth Test:** Jan 24-28 (Johannesburg).

Sport

The Game

Sixteen pages of the best football reports and analysis

Inside T2

Root blames bowlers for Test defeat

We let South Africa off the hook, says captain

Simon Wilde Centurion

Joe Root defended his decision to bowl first in the opening Test, blaming his bowlers for not driving home the advantage that they had created when South Africa were 111 for five on the first afternoon.

South Africa recovered to make 284, took a first-innings lead of 103, and went on to complete victory in Centurion yesterday by 107 runs. England were all out for 268 after losing their last six wickets for 46 to Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje with the second new ball.

Root dead-batted questions about whether James Anderson or Stuart Broad would be dropped for Friday's second Test in Cape Town, saying: "They've got fantastic records behind them and have produced fantastic things in the recent past. You don't want to wish those guys away or look back and think, 'We've forced Jimmy Anderson out.'"

Darren Gough, who recently worked as the team's fast-bowling coach in New Zealand and commentated on the match for talkSPORT, suggested England may leave out one of them. "A spinner needs to come into the side at Cape Town and Dom Bess looks like the man they are thinking about," Gough said. "They may only play one out of Broad and Anderson so they have a huge decision to make."

Steve Harmison, another former England fast bowler, said: "I agree with Darren, there is a decision to be made on two of our all-time greats."

Broad was seen during Saturday morning's drinks break engaged in a vigorous exchange of views with Ben Stokes, acting captain in the absence of Root, who was off the field, as England's bowling plans fell apart in the second innings.

Root said of his decision at the toss: "It was difficult. It felt very 50-50. You look at the history of this ground, the surface in front of you and a five-man seam attack, and you think this is a great opportunity to make a real dent.

"The game was lost in the first innings with bat and ball. We got them to 111 for five in good conditions to bowl and you're looking to bowl them out for 180 to 200. They got away from us more than they should. We probably gave away too many boundary balls. Quinton de Kock [who made the match top score of 95] likes to score quickly and we allowed him to play in the manner he likes."

England's blushes were partially spared by Sam Curran, at 21 the youngest member of the attack, taking four of the first seven wickets to fall. "The ideal scenario is to have people pushing them [Broad and Anderson] all the time, so that they're constantly trying to improve themselves," Root added. "You look at Jimmy physically and he's in fantastic fettle and he's got a brilliant record in these conditions, similarly with Stuart. If difficult decisions have to be made down the line then they will be made."

Any criticism of the performance has

Continued on page 59

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

Angry swish: Root walks off furiously after being dismissed for 48 yesterday

Moyes returns to West Ham

Matt Lawton
Chief Sports Correspondent

David Moyes has been named as West Ham United's new manager. The Scot, 56, has signed an 18-month deal and replaces Manuel Pellegrini, who was sacked on Saturday after a 2-1 home defeat by Leicester City left them one place above the Premier League relegation zone.

The appointment, first revealed by *The Times*, completes an unlikely return to the London Stadium for the former Everton and Manchester United manager, who kept West Ham in the top flight after succeeding Slaven Bilic on a short-term deal in 2017 only to be overlooked for the full-time position, West Ham preferring Pellegrini.

Stuart Pearce, the former West Ham and England defender, is likely to be a member of Moyes's backroom team.

Full story in The Game

United said no to Haaland

Paul Hirst

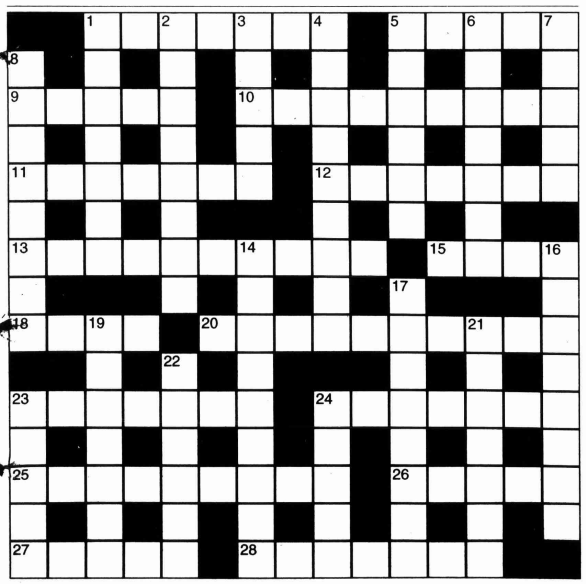
Manchester United pulled out of the race to sign Erling Haaland, the exciting teenage RB Salzburg striker, after becoming frustrated by negotiations with Mino Raiola, the player's agent.

Borussia Dortmund announced yesterday that Haaland, 19, identified by the United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as a transfer target, had agreed to join the German club, who triggered a £17 million release clause.

Solskjaer had flown to Austria to speak to Haaland and his family and United had been confident of securing his signature. However, it is understood that United decided not to pursue their interest after Raiola had, among other things, demanded that a buyout clause in excess of £42 million be inserted in Haaland's contract.

Full story in The Game

Times Crossword 27,547



ACROSS

1 A couple of lines crossing everywhere (3,4)
5 Beatle's back in USSR, playing tricks (5)
9 Check a Buddhist at regular intervals (5)
10 One male voice giving nothing away (9)
11 Singular cup-bearer with vacant expression still here? (7)
12 Lug in that case of clay (7)
13 Worker occasionally draws injured people (10)
15 Head, bowled out in past times (4)
18 Obstinate person endlessly holding a hammer (4)
20 Break out with Toad's means of locomotion (10)
23 Producer of keys? Not for Ghanaians (7)
24 Emperor, short and fat, mostly as a figurehead (7)
25 Tool displays more wings for aircrew (6,3)
26 Treatment of savant by university (5)
27 Trifling child (5)
28 Pray with heart not with head, returning thanks (7)

DOWN

1 Begin to deal with notice on deck (7)
2 In airport goddess replaces old Christian (8)
3 Gesture saving ground with a shed (1-4)
4 Stand for show again? (9)
5 Stop outside or go (6)
6 Son embraced by saint (7)
7 Letters from schoolmaster never enforcing discipline (5)
8 Aspic possibly combined with pepper (8)
14 Bear children and be disagreeable (4,5)
16 Conclusion about county, not quite approved (8)
17 Busts are terribly hard to grasp (8)
19 Introduce American drug, ignoring blood group (5,2)
21 No fewer than fifty each in a test (not English) (2,5)
22 Strong feeling about large person fastening flies? (6)
23 Tea from northbound service area (5)
24 That is how to move a trailer (2,3)

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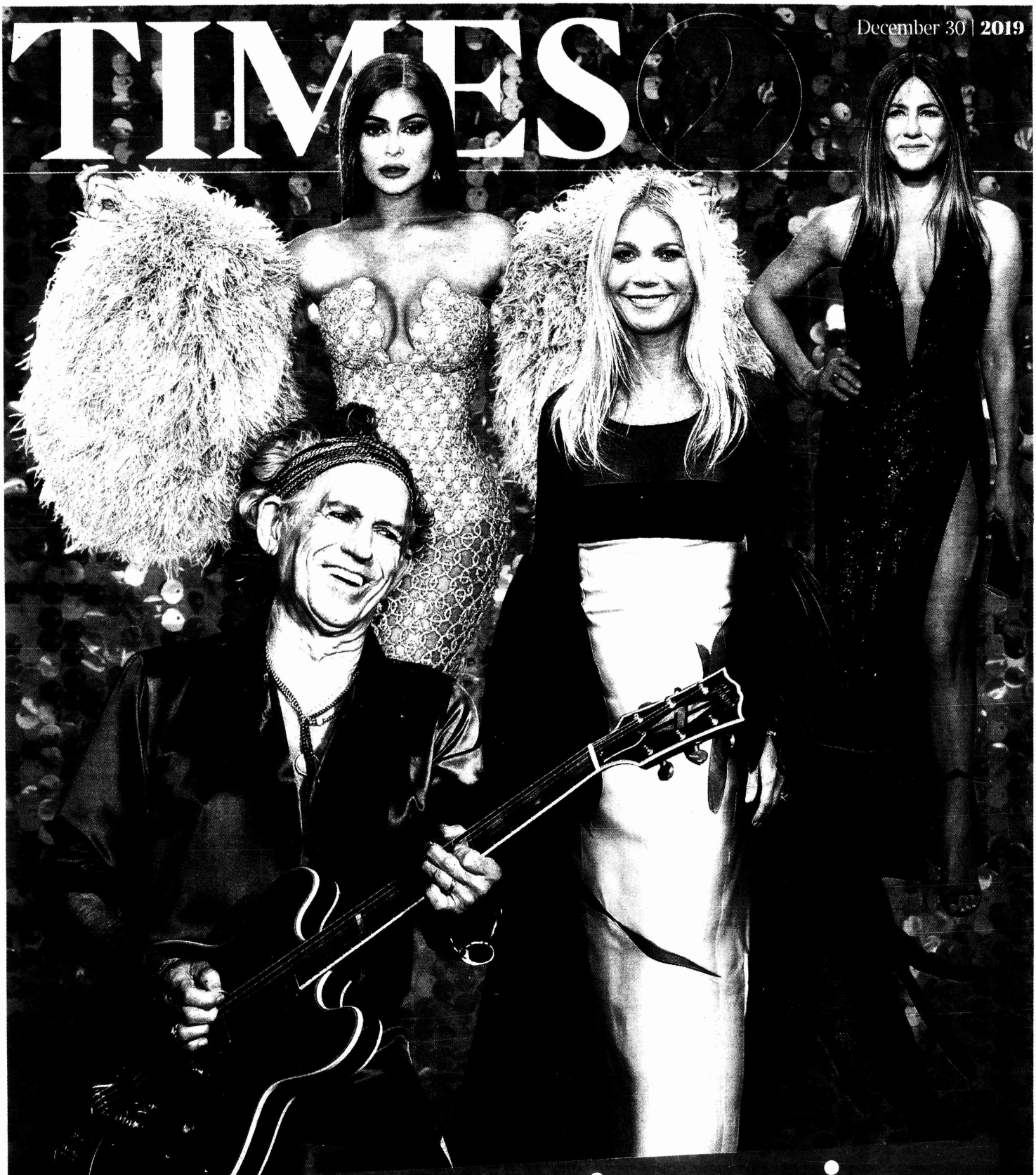
TIMES 2
December 30 | 2019



And the winner is...

Caitlin Moran's Celebrity Watch Awards

From woke to Woking — it's

Caitlin Moran

Hello, hello and welcome to the Celebrity Watch Awards 2019! Obviously, this is a greeting that will have disheartened many of you given that the whole concept of awards ceremonies appears to be an increasingly unpopular pastime. The Oscars has lost more than half its audience in the past decade, slipping from 41 million to 26 million, while the Baftas dropped half a million between 2018 and 2019.

Learning from their mistakes, I've tried to ensure the success of the Celebrity Watch Awards FOR YOU, the viewer, by including elements from more eagerly greeted awards ceremonies of yore. I've made sure we have a male presenter — well, me in a beard — who repeatedly refers to the few women attending as "all you lovely ladies"; I've kept the running time to a "prewar" length (the first Oscars, in 1929, lasted 15 minutes, which I'd say is about right); and, halfway through, a group of angry feminists will storm the stage and throw flour at me, followed by a naughty streaker.

We just don't get enough streakers at big events any more — a dolorous fact that makes me veer towards melancholy. I can't remember the last time I saw a merrily bouncing willy bounding across the pitch in an important Test match or a cheerful pair of tits belting across the court at Wimbledon.

Streaking is a British vocation that is rapidly going the way of the wheelwright, the lamplighter and the scrivener, and I can only feel that this country is all the poorer for it — so look out for a pleasing naked attention-seeker as we begin the Celebrity Watch Awards 2019!

Who Has Had the Worst 2019?

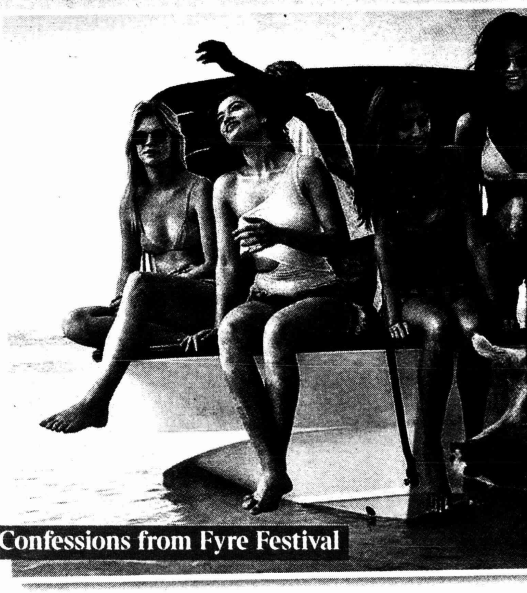
I sense many of us will be looking around, going: "Is… is the winner of this going to be me? I haven't prepared a speech! THIS IS AN ANXIETY DREAM COME TRUE! WHY AM I NAKED? WHY IS MY OLD MATHS TEACHER SITTING NEXT TO ME?" But I can reassure you: however impossible it may seem, many others had far, far worse 2019s than you did.

Take, for instance, Andy King, who until 2019 had spent 30 years being a successful and anonymous live music promoter. This year, though, he became one of the biggest global memes. Why? Well, he appeared in the infamous documentary about the Fyre Festival — the "aspirational" festival in the Caribbean, with tickets upwards of $4,000, which collapsed when the organisers failed to get around to providing food, transport, tents or the supermodels promised in the promotional literature.

Halfway through the documentary King described how the festival nearly didn't have any water on site because customs had held up a delivery of 100,000 bottles of Evian. With a day to go, his boss rang him and said: "Andy, our wonderful gay leader — we need you to take one big thing for the team. Will you… suck dick to fix this water problem? Suck the head of customs' dick and save this festival."

As King then relates in the film: "I went and showered, drank some mouthwash — and drove across the island to take one for the team."

As King's beyond-noble actions took off as a meme for both Bad Days at Work and oral sex, it was hard to work out which was the more alarming aspect of the story: that King had agreed to do this in the first place; that King had then told a film crew about it; or that some people held him up as an example of the perfect employee. Note to any young people looking for a job in the new year — this should never be part of your job description, no matter how powerful a meme it has become. Join a union that makes this clear. And, more pertinently, only work for a festival that has access to mains water.



Confessions from Fyre Festival

More Money Than Sense Award

The problem with being rich and famous is that, after a while, you run out of things to spend your money on. An adoring public keep stuffing money through your letterbox, to the point where it has filled every room and endangers your life, but after you've bought half a dozen houses, a private jet and sundry diamond items, what's left to buy? Even if you went to Build-A-Bear — legendarily the most expensive experience available — every day for a year, you'd still barely clear a path down the hallway, piles-of-cash wise. And you'd have 365 Build-A-Bears cluttering up the house with their terrifyingly blank-yet-expensive Build-A-Bear eyes. You'd be worse off than when you started.

Given this intense but niche problem, I can only hail as heroes the dozens of brave men and women who, in 2019, invented completely fictional mad-balls services that they then touted to celebrity clients who genuinely have more money than sense.

In January the troubled former glamour model Katie Price allegedly hired a "money coach", according to a "source" in *Closer* magazine. "Katie has finally realised how serious things are," the "source" confided.

One can only presume that, while the money advice the coach gave was undoubtedly useful, the fees they charged for this were sadly, like Price, top-heavy — as we now know from her bankruptcy, which she declared in November. Quack, quack oops.

Meanwhile, over in Los Angeles — the global nerve centre for mad-balls services — Jennifer Aniston had hired an "interiors therapist" to "remove all traces of her ex-husband Justin Theroux from their $21 million mansion", *Grazia* alleged.

"They've been working together for months so Jen can 'reclaim' the space," the "source" said. "She's also performing cleansing rituals and getting rid of anything significant they decided on as a couple."

I'm sure that anyone who has been over to a friend's house, post-break-up, and helped them to wang all their ex's back copies of *Zoo* magazine into a neighbour's skip — along with all the horrible gigantic cereal bowls he insisted on buying, even though they didn't fit in the crockery drawer — will be thrilled and amazed to learn that they were acting as an "interiors therapist". There's something else to pop on the CV.

Not surprisingly, "interiors therapy" is a well-established career — Gwyneth Paltrow, inevitably, wazzed her dollar in 2019 on a "personal shaman" who decluttered her spiritual space and performed "vibrational wardrobe decluttering" — getting rid of any clothes with "bad vibes".

Gallerist-lovers Jennifer Lawrence and Sienna Miller

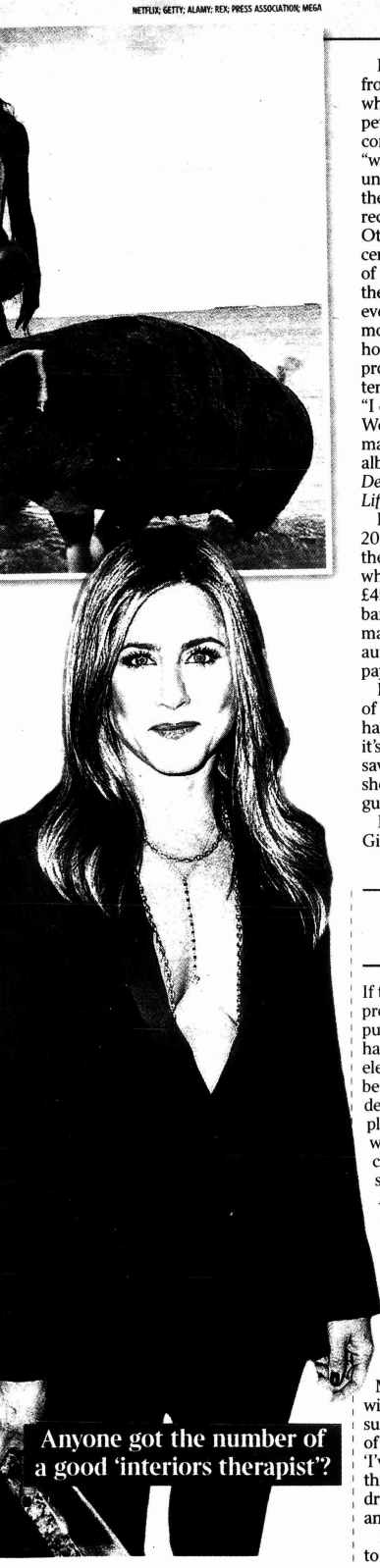
However, this year's mad-balls job in catering to people who have more money than sense award goes to "gallerist boyfriends".

In January *Grazia* highlighted that the latest trend for Hollywood females is to have a "gallerist boyfriend". The magazine speculated that "2019 might go down as the year of the gallerist boyfriend! Hot on the heels of Jennifer Lawrence's romance with New York gallery director Cooke Maroney, Sienna Miller last week confirmed she is now dating Lucas Zwirner — whose father owns the Zwirner Gallery in New York."

While happy for the gallerist-banging actresses in question, I have to confess that until that week I had never heard of "gallerists". Not a whisper. Has it always been a thing? Gallerists? Isn't that just, essentially… a rich dude with a room? It's amazing that they have a fancy name for that now.

the Celebrity Watch Awards

NETFLIX; GETTY; ALAMY; REX; PRESS ASSOCIATION; MEGA



Anyone got the number of a good 'interiors therapist'?

I've disallowed Worst 2019 entries from people such as Prince Andrew — whose 2019 was, obviously, a raging petrol bin-fire — because I feel that contained within the meaning of "worst" should be an element of unfairness or the random nature of the gods, and not a wholly correct reckoning for your terrible decisions. Otherwise, Prince Andrew would certainly be in line for some manner of medal for what was, categorically, the most catastrophic interview ever given. In years to come, his most famous lines from that dark hour — "my judgment was probably coloured by my tendency to be too honourable", "I can't sweat", "Pizza Express in Woking" — will be seen as some manner of Greatest Hits on an album entitled *How To Utterly Destroy Your Undeservedly Golden Life In 50 Minutes*.

Definitely qualifying for the Worst 2019 award, however, is Katie Price, the once-successful glamour model who has somehow blazed through a £45 million fortune and been declared bankrupt, and who, according to *OK!* magazine, has resorted to selling her autographed underwear on eBay to pay her drink-driving fines.

Price's robotically chanted slogan of "Never underestimate the Pricey!" has taken on an ironic quality since it's unlikely that even her most savage underestimator thought she would be reduced to signing old gussets to stay out of jail.

However, the winner is the former Girls Aloud chanteuse Cheryl Cole.

Since her relationship with the One Directioneer Liam Payne ended, Cole has become the tabloids' chosen "Iconic Lonely Celebrity Woman", taking over from "poor" Jennifer Aniston as the subject of endless, needling pity and weekly updates on how being beautiful and famous means nothing if you've no one to share a Tesco Finest* Cottage Pie for two with.

Even that fame is in question — for, in August, Cole's waxwork in Madame Tussauds was taken down because she was claimed to be "no longer relevant". Harsh.

Apparently, the statue has been put in storage for "an indefinite period" — perhaps alongside others whose careers have similarly dwindled, such as Lloyd Cole, George Cole and Nat "King" Cole in a room labelled "Cole (minor)". Yes — I am pleased with that joke.

In a recorded VT, I will be presenting this award to the waxwork Cole, which is standing in a room that could be called "the Hall of Shattered Dreams" with a tarp over its head and hoping that its eventual fate is better than that of Gary Barlow's figurine.

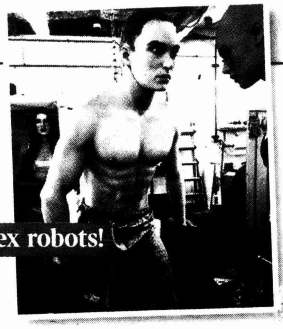
When the Take That member's statue was decommissioned, it was at the point in his life when he had put on a bit of weight — and Barlow was told that it would be melted down to make Britney Spears and "two out of three of Destiny's Child".

Headline of the Year

If there's one thing Britain can remain proud of, it is its tabloids' way with a punchy headline. In recent years they have increasingly sounded like one-line elevator pitches for movies that would be snapped up by Netflix. And who can deny that the world would be a better place if, say, *Metro*'s "Male sex robots with unstoppable bionic penises are coming this year" were available to stream at home — perhaps merged, *Batman v Superman*-style, with the *Lancashire Post*'s "Dancing Chorley flasher 'balanced pie on head' before exposing himself at road junction".

For those into more "emotional" projects, *Hello!* had the oddly fairytale-like: "One day I wrapped a crying baby in cabbage leaves to lower his fever. I didn't know then, but it was Angelina [Jolie]'s son, Maddox"; while the *Daily Mail* went with "Incredible story of only man to survive *Titanic* disaster and the sinking of *Lusitania* before telling his family: 'I've had enough of large ships'." I see this line as rivalling "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again" as an attention-grabbing opener.

For fans of a more gonzo element to their movies, the promise inherent in the *Daily Mail*'s "Anthea Turner's new fiancé 'bitterly regrets biting a policeman after taking magic mushrooms at a new year party'" is stupendous — it's a bag of words that delivers, syllable for syllable, astonishing value for money.



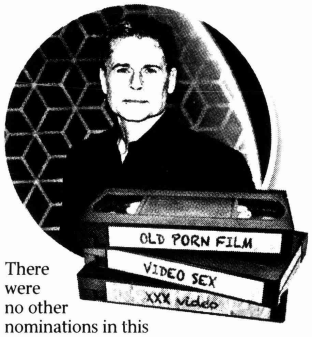
Sex robots!

However, the winner has to be the *New Scientist*, which in March had this exclusive: "Animal with an anus that comes and goes could reveal how ours evolved". (Even better was the tweet that promoted it: "The warty comb jelly has been found to have a 'transient anus' that forms only when it needs to defecate".)

I feel that, with the discovery of something that can say, cheerfully, "Hey! My anus is optional!" we have finally found a creature with the degree of pragmatism and adaptability needed to thrive in post-Brexit Britain. So welcome our new transient-anused overlord — the warty comb jelly! The campaign to make it the next Labour leader starts here!

Oh, look! It's the streaking Russian stripper from the Champions League final, bringing, I'm sure, a tear to the eye of every viewer; thrilled that the old ways aren't dying out, after all — and allowing a million conspiracy theories about Russia's influence to flourish well into the new year!

The 'You Were So Close to Being Right — But Then Went Unbelievably Wrong at the Last Minute!' Award



There were no other nominations in this category, which went to the Eighties heart-throb Rob Lowe, who, during the summer, mused on a ripe subject: his infamous 1988 sex tape.

Lowe is credited with a proud achievement — for the '88 sex special was the first sex tape, predating Pamela Anderson by seven years and Kim Kardashian by 15. It was, in almost every way, seminal. He is a sexual genius. A penius, if you will.

"The real f***-up was I didn't wait 20 years," he told the *WTF With Mark Maron* podcast. At which we all breathed a sigh of relief — for, infamously, the girl Lowe was filmed having sex with was, at the time, 16. Although in 1988 the age of consent in Georgia was 14, we all know that 24-year-old men shouldn't be having sex with people still too young to have grown out a bad fringe they cut when they were 15. Thank God Lowe addressed this. Thank God for reflection and repentance!

However! Lowe followed this up with a heartfelt: "It would have helped my career."

Rob Lowe! Rob Lowe! You were so close to being right — but then you went unbelievably wrong at the last minute! All other 24-year-old men reading this — remember, when it comes to having sex, when Rob goes Lowe, you go high! A higher number of age! Like, 18 as a minimum!

times2

Still Waiting For This to Pan Out/ One Hell of a Long Game Award

In March, when we innocently thought the Brexit deadlock had reached its most agonising low point, Uri Geller randomly crash-landed on to the scene. Writing an open letter to Theresa May — remember her? That really tense-looking woman who used to hang around Downing Street? — the infamous spoon-botherer began with one of the all-time strong lead-ins.

"Three years before you became prime minister, I predicted your victory when I showed you Winston Churchill's spoon on my Cadillac, which I asked you to touch," he began. BOOM! And we're OFF!

Having established some *League of Gentlemen*-like scenario in which May took part in the Ritual of the Churchill Spoon-Touch and is presumably now Geller's wife, Geller said: "I feel psychically and very strongly that most British people do not want Brexit. I will not allow you to lead Britain into Brexit.

"As much as I admire you, I will stop you telepathically from doing this — and believe me, I am capable of executing it," he continued, unconsciously talking like a second-tier baddie in a Roger Moore-era Bond movie. "Before I take this drastic course of action I appeal to you to stop the process immediately — while you still have a chance."

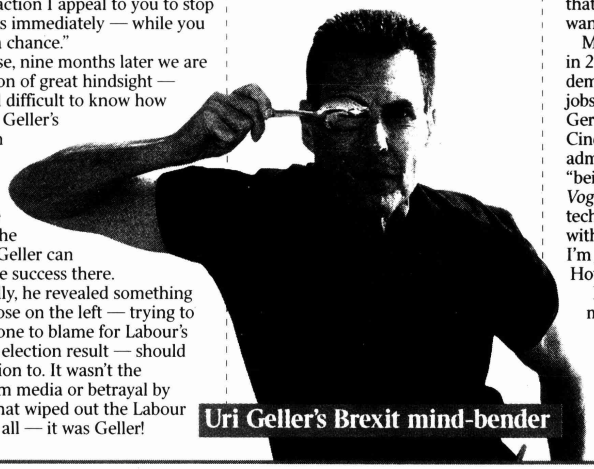
Of course, nine months later we are in a position of great hindsight — yet it's still difficult to know how to process Geller's claims. On the one hand, May didn't take us out of the EU — so Geller can claim some success there. Additionally, he revealed something that all those on the left — trying to find someone to blame for Labour's disastrous election result — should pay attention to. It wasn't the mainstream media or betrayal by centrists that wiped out the Labour vote, after all — it was Geller!

"As you might have read, I am ensuring that Jeremy Corbyn never gets the keys to Number 10 Downing Street, with the power of my mind, which I have proved over and again," Geller wrote. "I will ensure that [my spoons] bend out of all proportion, to ensure that he never takes up residence there."

Fair f***s to Geller's spoons — Corbyn really isn't prime minister right now.

But, as we canter towards 2020, we have to ask ourselves: what's Geller's next move? Does all this mean he genuinely has powers? Will he write an open letter to Boris Johnson outlining future spoon magic he intends to use? Or — on January 31, when it seems inevitable that we will leave the EU — will Geller go on the scrapheap of history, alongside the man trapped in the carbonite of history, Han Solo-style, by April's badly dated headline: "Psychic who uses ASPARAGUS to make predictions claims Meghan will give birth to twins after 'reading the spears' live on *This Morning*."

Having learnt from Geller's mistakes, I'm not making any predictions about this at all.



Uri Geller's Brexit mind-bender

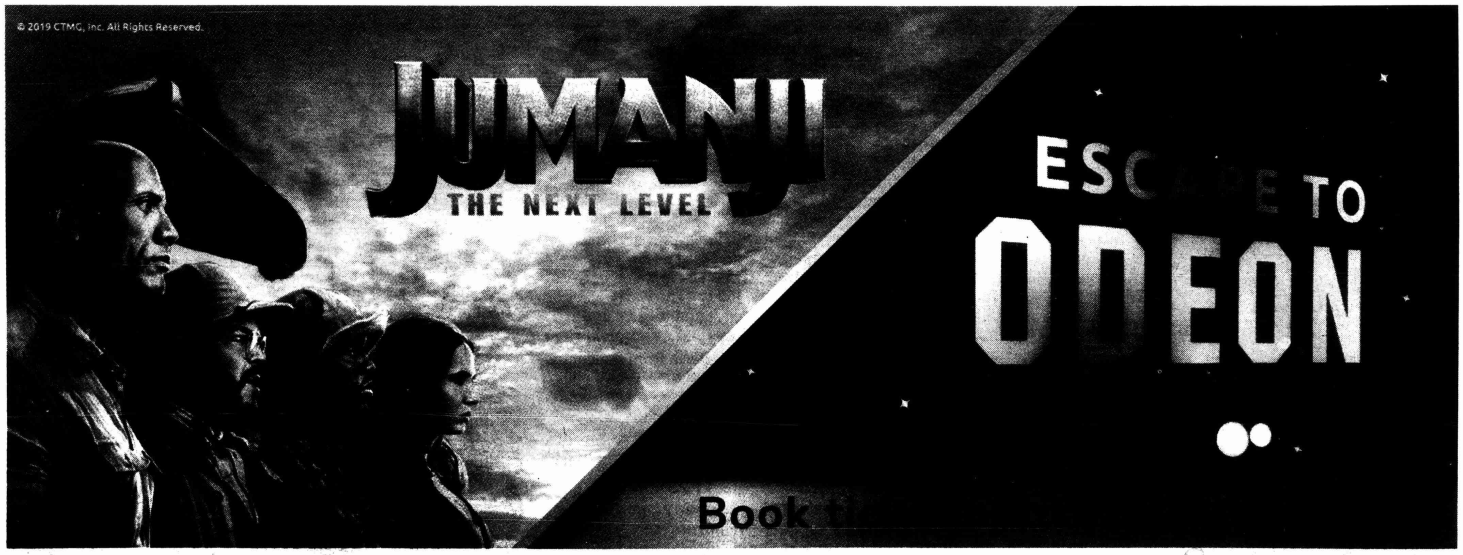
Feminism's Greatest Triumph of 2019

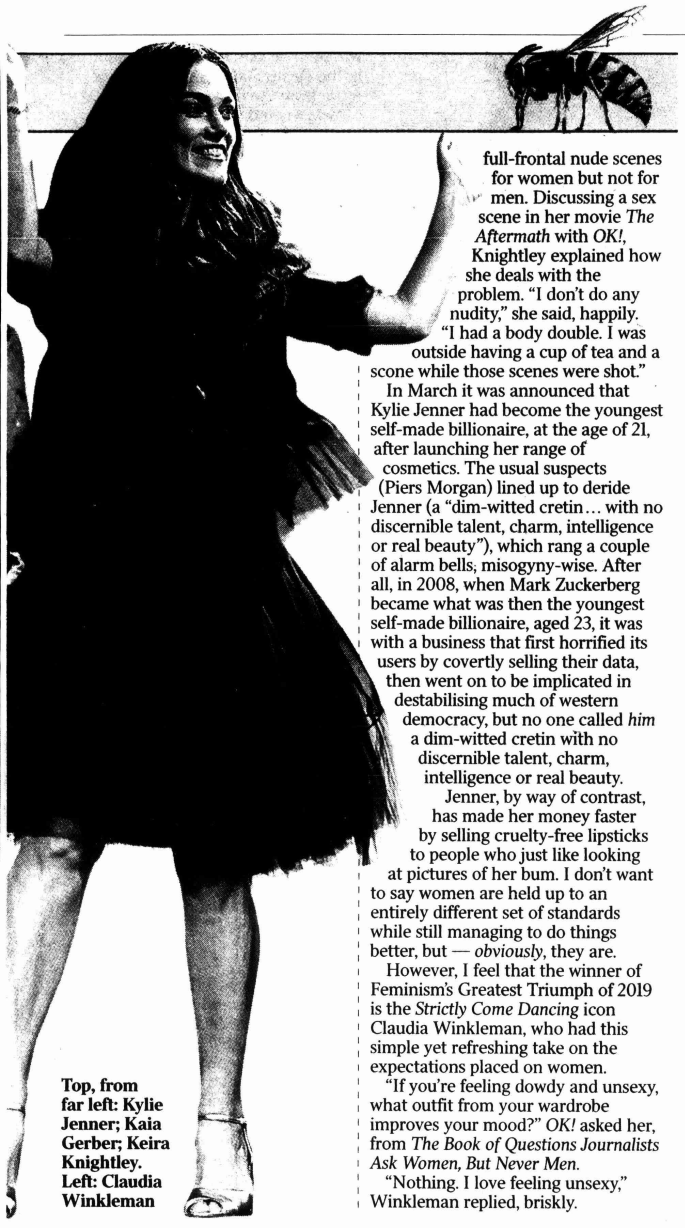
The year has been what we'd technically refer to as "a mixed grill" for the ladies. On the bright side, every day seemed to bring to light a new historical sex crime committed by men so powerful it has taken decades, and the invention of a new technology — social media — to finally reveal their actions and hold them accountable. On the dark side, every day seemed to bring to light a new historical sex crime committed by men so powerful it has taken decades, and the invention of a new technology — social media — to finally reveal their actions and hold them accountable.

Still! Putting all the Bad Stuff aside, women themselves have done a great deal of good work in 2019, all, perhaps, kick-started by a valuable piece of news that came in January, with the *New York Post*'s headline: "Doctors warn women against putting wasp nests in their vaginas". It's advice that, now you've heard it, seems obvious. But at the time, so many of us, given the opportunity — perhaps while climbing a tree or looking in a long-neglected loft and coming across a madly buzzing nest — would have just been, like, "Ach, what's the worst that could happen?" and wanged it in our knickers.

Much sterling work was done in 2019 by successful women demystifying typically female jobs. The supermodel Kaia Gerber — the daughter of Cindy Crawford — had an admirably chilled take on "being a model". Talking to *Vogue*, she addressed the technicalities of her career with a cheerful: "I mean, I'm just standing there. How bad can I do?"

Keira Knightley, meanwhile, came up with a solution to the age-old problem of scripts containing





full-frontal nude scenes for women but not for men. Discussing a sex scene in her movie *The Aftermath* with *OK!*, Knightley explained how she deals with the problem. "I don't do any nudity," she said, happily. "I had a body double. I was outside having a cup of tea and a scone while those scenes were shot."

In March it was announced that Kylie Jenner had become the youngest self-made billionaire, at the age of 21, after launching her range of cosmetics. The usual suspects (Piers Morgan) lined up to deride Jenner (a "dim-witted cretin... with no discernible talent, charm, intelligence or real beauty"), which rang a couple of alarm bells, misogyny-wise. After all, in 2008, when Mark Zuckerberg became what was then the youngest self-made billionaire, aged 23, it was with a business that first horrified its users by covertly selling their data, then went on to be implicated in destabilising much of western democracy, but no one called *him* a dim-witted cretin with no discernible talent, charm, intelligence or real beauty.

Jenner, by way of contrast, has made her money faster by selling cruelty-free lipsticks to people who just like looking at pictures of her bum. I don't want to say women are held up to an entirely different set of standards while still managing to do things better, but — *obviously*, they are.

However, I feel that the winner of Feminism's Greatest Triumph of 2019 is the *Strictly Come Dancing* icon Claudia Winkleman, who had this simple yet refreshing take on the expectations placed on women.

"If you're feeling dowdy and unsexy, what outfit from your wardrobe improves your mood?" *OK!* asked her, from *The Book of Questions Journalists Ask Women, But Never Men.*

"Nothing. I love feeling unsexy," Winkleman replied, briskly.

Top, from far left: Kylie Jenner; Kaia Gerber; Keira Knightley. Left: Claudia Winkleman

Photo of the Year

REX; GETTY; THE SUN; JEFF MOORE; INSTAGRAM; OK! MAGAZINE

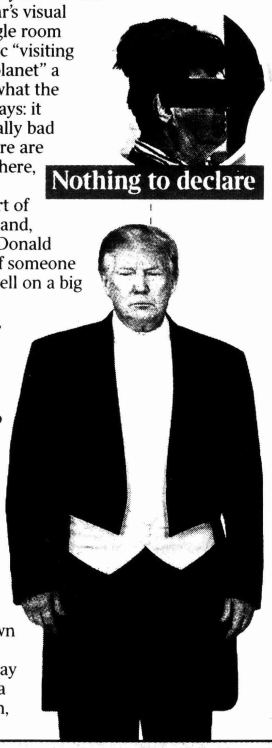
What a feast for the eyes 2019 has been! To put this year's visual highlights into a single room would give the classic "visiting alien from another planet" a pretty good idea of what the planet is like these days: it has been another really bad year for animals, there are Kardashians everywhere, humans are stupid, Vladimir Putin is part of our day-to-day lives and, whatever you do to Donald Trump, he looks as if someone cast an animating spell on a big pile of garbage.

Cocaine Wig Man, *above right*, was confused when his ostensibly cunning plan to smuggle half a kilo of cocaine into Spain, hidden under his wig, was busted. Ironically, without the wig, the packet of cocaine glued to his head looks much like the hairstyle adopted by Mark Lamarr on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, and would have drawn far less attention.

For the first birthday of Stormi Jenner — a child of a Kardashian, I forget which one — a specially commissioned tent, *above*, was erected so partygoers could experience the unique moment of walking into an inflatable replica of Stormi's mouth and being digested into her party. No pictures were provided of how guests left, but if they weren't pooed out of a Stormi bumhole, with party bags, the Kardashians have missed a rare bum-based trick.

Those convinced that Putin exerts a strong hold on this country, and sees everything, would not have been comforted by this terrifying Putin steak found in a Croydon branch of Aldi, *top left*. Perhaps reflecting on how very much Trump's tailor must hate him, *left*, would cheer them up.

Photo of the Year, though, had to be this seagull, *top centre*, which, in July, through a sequence of events it sadly could not describe to us, ended up covered in turmeric and turning bright orange. As I said at the time, and continue to congratulate myself on saying now, the Smiths foresaw this event by 30 years: gull found in a korma — you know, you know, it's serious.



Worst Celebrity Marriage Proposal

This was a two-proposal race. First, the *Pop Idol* star Gareth Gates — a man who will always be remembered as "that stuttery kid who lost his virginity to a pregnant Katie Price". He and the *Coronation Street* star Faye Brookes announced their engagement in the summer, after a New Year's Eve proposal.

"There was a baby grand piano by the window," Brookes told *OK!*, "and Gareth turned to me and said, 'I want to play you a song I've written for you.'"

"I got a bit carried away," Gates admitted. "I incorporated bits of songs that mean a lot to us. It was 17 minutes long."

"Once it finished," Brookes added, "Gareth got down on one knee and said, 'Will you spend the rest of your life with me?'"

Given the length of the ballad, I feel he should have added the kicker: "What's left of it, anyway."

However, the winner had to go to the love offering conjured up by the fiancé of *Coronation Street* star Alison King. Having read her account of it many times, I can see that King was attempting to paint a picture of a loving boyfriend going that extra mile to make sure that when he proposed it was with the ring of her dreams.

However, on first reading the line "He kept putting something on my finger and going, 'Right, close your eyes and pretend this never happened'," I had awful flashbacks to something that happened to me in 1996, and found myself screaming: "RUN AWAY, THEN GET THAT FINGER IN SOME ANTI-BAC, CARLA!"

What We Have Learnt in 2019

- Keith Richards, *right*, uses a "motorised ashtray" so he doesn't "piss off" Mick Jagger.
- Noel Edmonds believes the latest UK census to be incorrect: "We believe we live on an island with a population of 66 million, but that is government propaganda. It's a fiction. It's actually at least 75 million," he told *The Guardian*, confidently.
- According to a mole, McDonald's has on its "secret menu" a burger called the McGangbang.
- Falcon breeders use a Falcon Sex Hat to collect sperm from male birds. The falconer dons the silicone pillbox cap — which comes in several colours, including a romantic pink; £155 on Amazon — makes sexy lady-falcon noises and does "dipping motions" to catch a randy man-hawk's eye. Why a sex hat? Well, no one wants to give Kes a happy ending on to a sponge.
- At a party in 2001 the musician Moby brushed the tip of his exposed penis against Donald Trump's back, in a game he devised called "knob touch".
- Qatar Airways will allow you to bring one falcon if you are travelling economy.
- Gemma Atkinson of *Hollyoaks* is a "spiritual person": "Sometimes, ten minutes before bed, I just chill for a bit and turn my phone off."
- Tories love drugs: Michael Gove had his cocaine shame "in a party held at his Mayfair flat"; Johnson did coke while at Balliol; Jeremy Hunt said he "might" have had a cannabis milkshake when "on the road in India"; while Rory Stewart did opium at a wedding in Iran.
- According to a sizzling exclusive in *Spin* magazine, "Carly Rae Jepsen once watched Seal eat a whole loaf of bread".
- The Queen often likes to help to capture and release bats that have accidentally flown indoors at Balmoral Castle. This would make her — YES! — "Bat Ma'am". See you next year!

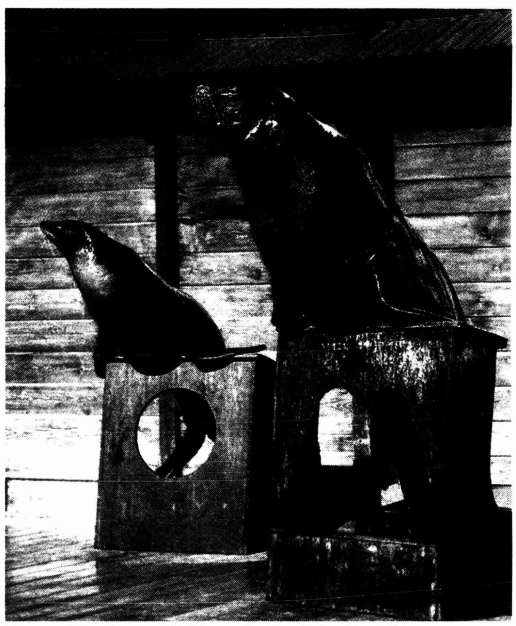
The trouble with zoos — or why you need sunglasses for the sea lion show

Kevin Maher

Boo! What a killjoy! What a party pooper! The millionaire conservationist Damian Aspinall has said that all zoos should be phased out because they are, essentially, well, rubbish. And he should know because he has his own — he is the chairman of the foundation that runs the Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks in Kent. Aspinall, whose father was the gambling impresario John Aspinall, has complained about disease, inbreeding and inherent cruelty in all zoos. "Parents should not be taking their kids to zoos," he said. "There's no excuse for any zoo today."

Hmm. I took my kids to the zoo recently. It was the 600-acre Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire. The folk there must be doing something right because I was barely 30 minutes inside the gates when I burst out crying. Seriously. And I don't mind admitting it because I'm not normally that kind of guy. Yes, the ending of *Toy Story 3* gets me every time. As do the closing scenes of *The Champ*, where the tiny tyke tries to wake his dead dad by saying, "We got to go home, Champ… I want Champ!" But otherwise… Oh, and the bit in *Shadowlands* when Anthony Hopkins finally breaks down because his one true love has died from cancer. But, as I was saying, I'm not normally… And the end of *Field of Dreams* when Kevin Costner plays baseball with the ghost of his dad! Or *Marley & Me* when they have to put the dog down. Or *The Wizard of Oz* when she says goodbye to the Scarecrow.

Point being, on a regular interpersonal level, in any normal reality that doesn't involve watching tear-jerking movies, I'm tough as old boots. Which makes my zoo-based breakdown all the more perplexing. It happened during "sea lion splash", which was an educational "animal experience" that featured three Californian sea lions doing all sorts of humiliating nonsense (lots of somersaults, backflips and high-fives) in a modest-sized swimming pool while a cheery sea lion wrangler, hooked up to a radio mike, hit us with the hardcore eco-shock statistics — one million single-use plastic bottles bought every minute globally, 100,000 sea lions dead every year because of oceanic plastics pollution and oceans everywhere filling up with discarded junk so fast that swimming in the sea will soon be akin to splashing about in the Death Star's trash-compactor room from the first *Star Wars*.



The sea lion show at Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire

Also, when did zoos become such eco-friendly downers? Whatever happened to, "Look at this exotic creature! Cool, right?" It all seems to have gone very, "Gather round solemnly everybody and say goodbye. Because these guys here? They're f***ed!" It was around this point during the Whipsnade splash-fest, in fact, that Maui, the four-month-old sea lion pup, popped up out of the water and stole the limelight. And, oh, those big inquiring eyes, the tiny silken body, and that undeniable aura of pristine innocence. I started to lose it. I could feel the emotion rising through my chest, kicking off the tiniest of chin wobbles. "Poor Maui," I thought. "It's not looking good, is it?" I then glanced around me, at the random clusters of sleepy tourists and mórbidly obese *Homo sapiens* chomping through beefburgers and falafel wraps, fizzy pop and venti megaccinos, and I thought: "No, Maui. Like the cheery girl says, you are truly f***ed!"

Naturally, I started to weep. Tears of guilt, obviously. Although not morbidly obese (not yet anyway), I am one of them. I over-consume. I like hot showers. And I always forget my reusable coffee cup. I'm basically a Maui-killer. I collected myself on the day, however. I put on a pair of shades (hides the tears and makes you look awesome) and took the kids over to see the big cats. There were a bunch of lions asleep, doing absolutely nothing, in a grim little enclosure. They looked miserable. The scene was miserable. Yet we gathered round excitedly, and pointed, and said: "Lions! Cool!" It was the highlight of the day.

Call the RSPCA — I'm a killer

A big thanks to the barrister Jolyon Maugham for creating the ultimate holiday party game, known as: "That's nothing! I remember the day when I intentionally killed an animal!" Yes, I'll see your splattered fox and raise you one very squashed linnet.

It was back, way back in the day (I was a teenager) when I heard several thuds on the window of the garage where I worked every Saturday. Outside I found three small brown birds (linnets — my dad was a bird nerd) on the ground, two dead, one barely breathing. I placed the survivor gingerly on a paper towel.

A school friend arrived soon after and, after much debate, we decided that the most humane treatment we could offer this tiny dying songbird was to wrap it tightly in paper towels, place it on the ground and drive over it, very slowly, in the company Range Rover. Which we did. Not sure, in retrospect, if it was very humane. But it was certainly, well, definitive.

Wake up and smell the coffee

As far as research goes, it's probably up there with the confirmation of the existence of the Higgs boson, or the "God particle", by the scientists at Cern in 2013. It's the news, from the Brazilian coffee industry, that the taste of coffee changes, ever so slightly, depending on the texture of the ceramic drinking vessel from which the beverage is consumed.

The experts behind the study found that cups with a smooth ceramic surface, inside and out, made coffee taste slightly sweeter than cups with a slightly rough ceramic texture, inside and out. It is reported that 230 people took part in this survey. Everyone else on planet Earth, thankfully, has a life.

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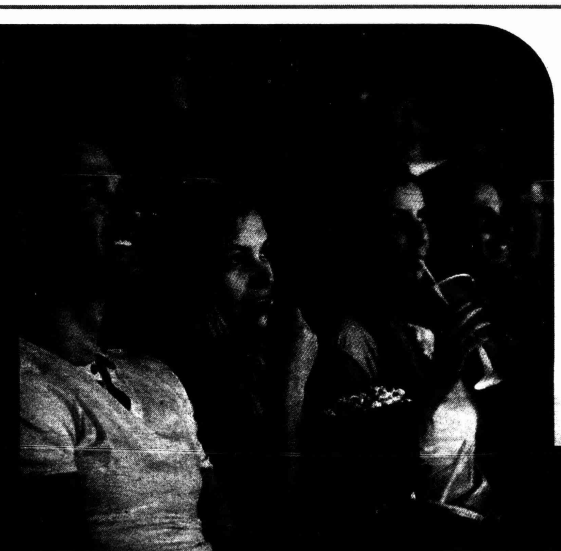

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A scandal imbued with a stylish exoticism

Carol Midgley TV review

The Trial of Christine Keeler
BBC One
★★★★☆

What a ghastly species was the 1960s male if we are to judge by **The Trial of Christine Keeler**. Adulterers, girlfriend-beaters, pimps, gropers — apart from Stephen Ward, who was at least generous and amazingly sanguine when Christine Keeler's violent ex-boyfriend fired bullets at his house, it was difficult to find a sliver of decency among them. But then this drama is pitched from Keeler's perspective and she was surrounded by some pretty grim men, all of whom wanted "something" from her, namely access to her teenage body.

This is the first big television dramatisation of the Profumo affair and it still has the power to intrigue, which is amazing given that the idea of politicians lying these days feels fairly routine. Yet any kind of scandal set in the 1960s or 1970s is imbued with a stylish exoticism, the recent *A Very English Scandal* (about the Jeremy Thorpe/Norman Scott affair) being the best example. This doesn't have the wit and verve of that production, but it does have two terrific actors in the roles of Keeler (Sophie Cookson is magnetic) and Mandy Rice-Davies (Ellie Bamber, recently Cosette in *Les Misérables*) using sex as their only card to play.

They look and sound authentic, young women getting by from day to day, Keeler with her no-hoper boyfriends, too naive to think hard about being exploited. Ben Miles played John (Jack) Profumo with reptilian creepiness, perving over 19-year-old Keeler at a Cliveden pool party in front of his wife, while angling to become the next prime minister. Some might protest that this was an unfair caricature; post-scandal, Profumo led a chastened life, devoting himself to charity work, which suggests he wasn't quite this arrogant and oily.

It is just as well that most of us already know the plot because this script jumped about a lot, shifting between one year ago, two years ago and the present. I think younger viewers unfamiliar with the events between 1961 and 1963, which (do I really need to say "spoiler alert"?) led to Profumo's resignation, could have struggled to follow where it was going.

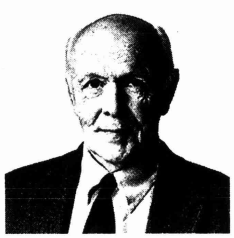
But I did like much of Amanda Coe's script, which dropped occasional gems and evoked the dry wit of Rice-Davies. Keeler recalled being pawed at by some greasy older man and his "wrinkly old cock". "Well you don't *have* to look," Rice-Davies said. Profumo, talking about himself possibly replacing Harold Macmillan, said: "The country might be glad to have a prime minister with a working todger." To which his wife, Valerie Hobson (Emilia Fox), replied that he should never use the word "todger" if he ever wanted to have sex with her again. Who would not agree with that sentiment?

James Norton, who called Keeler "little baby" so often it must have been a doddle learning his lines, is always reliable and his performance as "society osteopath" Ward was no exception. Ward was played as smiley and kind but inscrutable, and I didn't get much sense of his motivation in opening his house to beautiful waifs and strays and members of the establishment. However, it is a handsome production; I'd watch it just for the Sixties frocks.

BBC/ECOSSE FILMS/BEN BLACKALL

Sophie Cookson in the title role of The Trial of Christine Keeler

Radio Choice
Joe Clay



Ghost Stories from Ambridge
Radio 4, 6.15pm

Another spin-off from *The Archers*, but one that can be enjoyed by everyone. Over the next three nights, Jim Lloyd (played by John Rowe, *above*), the retired history professor from Stirling University, is captivating a gathering of Ambridge residents with three chilling ghost stories from the turn of the last century. On a biting December night, in the darkened attic of Lower Loxley, Lloyd begins with EF Benson's *The Room in the Tower*, the story of a young man who finds himself staying at a mysterious house that has plagued his dreams since he was a child.

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Radio 1
FM: 96.7–99.8 MHz

7.00am Radio 1 Anthems: 2013 **8.30** Radio 1 Anthems: 2013 **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems: 2014 **11.30** Radio 1 Anthems: 2014 **1.00pm** Radio 1 Anthems: 2015 **2.30** Radio 1 Anthems: 2015 **4.00** Radio 1 Anthems: 2016 **5.30** Radio 1 Anthems: 2016 **7.00** Radio 1's Future Sounds with Annie Mac **9.00** Mayce Al-Hroub **11.00** Radio 1's Indie Show **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Show **3.00** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems (r) **4.00** Radio 1's Early Breakfast Show

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Nicki Chapman Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Craig Charles in the Afternoon **5.00** Joe Lycett **7.00** Michelle Visage's Fabulous Divas. A two-hour celebration of the most fabulous divas of all time as Michelle hand-picks her all time favourite icons — Strictly Icons Only **9.00** Bruno Tonioli at the Opera. In the final programme of the series Bruno plays recordings from some of opera's greatest stars — past and present. Last in the series **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'nB and soulful tunes. Plus, Trevor's signature game, 5 Seconds to Name, and a trip down memory lane with a song from a listener's Musical Youth **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker (r) **5.00** Grace Dent

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast
Georgia Mann presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests. Including **7.00, 8.00** News **7.30, 8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Suzy Klein presents a selection of music and features, with the actress Harriet Walter sharing her cultural inspirations
12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)
Donald Macleod explores Tchaikovsky's life and music, beginning with the composer's early years and the tension between his desire to write music and his responsibilities as a clerk in the Ministry of Justice in St Petersburg. Tchaikovsky (*Swan Lake* — Act 2; *Eugene Onegin* — Act 3, Scene 1; *Song for the Golden Jubilee of the Imperial School of Jurisprudence*; Piano Concerto No 1 — 1st movement; and *Romeo and Juliet*) (r)
1.00pm News
1.02 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Georgia Mann introduces highlights from recitals recorded at St George's Bristol, featuring the fourth quartet in Haydn's Op 20 series and Fanny Mendelssohn's Piano Trio. Haydn (Quartet in D, Op 20 No 4); and Fanny Mendelssohn (Piano Trio in D minor, Op 11) (r)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Tom McKinney introduces the first of a week of programmes featuring concerts and performances given by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, with music by Mozart and Schumann. Mozart (Symphony No 33 in B flat, K 319; arr. Joseph Joachim — Violin concerto No 5 in A — Turkish, K 219; and Symphony No 39 in E flat, K 543); and Schumann (Symphony No 2 in C)
4.30 Early Music Now
As part of his celebration of music-making from Vienna for the New Year, Tom McKinney introduces a recital of lute music by Paul O'Dette
5.00 New Generation Artists
Catriona Morison performs Schumann's *A Woman's Life and Love*, and Elisabeth Brauss joins the Arod Quartet in Cheltenham for Brahm's Piano Quintet
6.15 Words and Music
Niamh Cusack and Neil Pearson read poetry and prose on the theme of arrivals and departures, including William Blake and Emily Dickinson (r)
7.30 BBC Proms 2019
Constantinos Carydis conducts the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the soprano Danae Kontora in Mozart and Strauss, plus Beethoven Symphony No 7. Presented by Ian Skelly from the Royal Albert Hall. The Greek coloratura soprano Danae Kontora makes her Proms debut with a sequence of Mozart and Strauss arias, while Mozart's Haffner Symphony is filled with operatic ornamentation and dramatic effects. Mozart (*The Abduction from the Seraglio* — overture; Aria — *Popoli di Tessaglia!* — *Io non chiedo, eterni dei*; Cassation No 1 in G — *Andante*; Aria — *No, no, che non sei capace*; Symphony No 35 in D, Haffner; Richard Strauss (*Capriccio* — sextet; *Ariadne auf Naxos* — *Grossmächtige Prinzessin!*); and Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A) (r)
10.00 BBC Proms 2019
A concert from the Royal Albert Hall in which Jules Buckley conducts Metropole Orkest in a celebration of Nina Simone, with the singers Ledisi and Lisa Fischer (r)
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30 News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.58 Tweet of the Day (11/12) (r)
6.00 Today
Presented by Sarah Smith and Mishal Husain
9.00 Positive Thinking
9.30 Witness
People whose fathers were black GIs stationed in the UK during the war
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Unreliable Memoirs
By Clive James (1/7) (r)
10.00 Woman's Hour
At **10.45** another chance to hear episode one of the first series of Holly Walsh and Kat Sommers' comedy *Charlotte and Lillian*
11.00 The Untold
Stories of 21st-century Britain (6/13)
11.30 Loose Ends
Mixing conversation, comedy and music (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 The Secret Commonwealth
By Philip Pullman (6/10)
12.18 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Could an Ancient Athenian Fix Britain?
Jon Harvey explores modern British democracy (1/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Road to Lautrec
By Douglas Livingstone
3.00 Quote: Unquote
With Tim Rice, Robin Stevens and Shazia Mirza (5/6)
3.30 The Food Programme
Leyla Kazim asks whether the British dinner party is a dying affair (r)
4.00 Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics
Comedy routines about Roman-British women (2/4)
4.30 Beyond Belief
Ernie Rea and guests discuss miracles (5/6)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Ghost Stories from Ambridge
The Room in the Tower by EF Benson. ***See Radio Choice (1/3)***
6.30 The Unbelievable Truth
With Holly Walsh, Henning Wehn, Tony Hawks and Sally Phillips (1/6)
7.00 The Archers
Lee feels awkward
7.15 Front Row
7.45 My Life with Flu
By Sarah Woods (1/5) (r)
8.00 A Small Matter of Hope
Fraser Nelson investigates why people are so pessimistic about the world
8.30 Crossing Continents
Documentary looking at the effects of climate change in Iceland (6/9) (r)
9.00 Dads and the Delivery Room
The pros and cons of men being present at the birth of their children (r)
9.30 Positive Thinking (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
Presented by Shaun Ley
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Secret Commonwealth (r)
11.00 Have You Heard George's Podcast?
George the Poet reveals how the "Insecurity Guards" hunt down ideas before they can make it onto his podcast (4/5)
11.30 James Veitch's Contractual Obligation
The comedian sets out to design a computer game (3/3) (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.15am Living Memory
A retired tax collector and the UK's oldest former MP look back on their lives (4/5) (r)
12.30 Book of the Week: Unreliable Memoirs (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Enchanting World of Hinge and Bracket **8.30** Dad's Army **9.00** Just a Minute **9.30** Semi Circles **10.00** Little Dorrit **11.00** TED Radio Hour **11.50** Inheritance Tracks **12.00** The Enchanting World of Hinge and Bracket **12.30pm** Dad's Army **1.00** One, Two, Buckle My Shoe **1.30** Mr Pollock's Theatres **2.00** Sweet Caress **2.15** The Hidden Henry **2.30** Northanger Abbey **2.45** Schubert's Winter Journey **3.00** Little Dorrit **4.00** Just a Minute **4.30** Semi Circles **5.00** Arrested Development **5.30** The Museum of Curiosity **6.00** Doctor Who: Serpent Crest **6.30** A Good Read **7.00** The Enchanting World of Hinge and Bracket **7.30** Dad's Army **8.00** One, Two, Buckle My Shoe **8.30** Mr Pollock's Theatres. The world of toy theatre **9.00** TED Radio Hour. Guy Raz explores the world of parenting **9.50** Inheritance Tracks. The guitarist Johnny Marr chooses songs by the Everly Brothers **10.00** Comedy Club: The Museum of Curiosity. A Christmas edition with JK Rowling, Glyn Johns and Shazia Mirza **10.30** On the Hour. Spoof news programme with Chris Morris **10.55** Comedy Club Extra **11.00** Dead Ringers. Comedy impressions **11.30** Hamish and Dougal: You'll Have Had Your Tea. Comedy with Barry Cryer and Graeme Garden

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Your Call **10.00** The Emma Barnett Show **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Monday Night Club. Mark Chapman presents the football debate **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **10.30** Sarah Brett **1.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Reports **5.15** Wake Up to Money

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast **10.00** Lynsey Hipgrave and Danny Murphy **1.00pm** Max Rushden and Charlie Baker **4.00** Andy Goldstein **7.00** The PressBox **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time **5.00** Early Breakfast

talkRADIO
Digital only

6.00am James Max **10.00** Mike Graham **1.00pm** Jamie East **4.00** Penny Smith **7.00** James Whale Feat Ash **10.00** Howard Hughes **1.00am** Darryl Morris

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Nemone **10.30** Tom Ravenscroft **1.00pm** Martin Freeman: Decades **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Gideon Coe **12.00** 6 Music Recommends with Lauren Laverne **1.00am** Wise Women **2.30** 6 Music Live Hour **3.30** 6 Music's Jukebox **5.00** Chris Hawkins

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Sam Pinkham **10.00** Ben Jones **2.00pm** Tim Cocker **6.00** Album Special **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** The Best Music New Year's Eve

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** John Suchet **1.00pm** Catherine Bott **5.00** Nicholas Owen **8.00** The Story of Decca **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Bob Jones

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Chris Bennion

Searching for Sam
BBC Four, 10pm

Top pick

Adrian Dunbar is a television actor best known for portraying Superintendent Ted Hastings in *Line of Duty*, but he is also a theatre director of some repute. The one playwright he keeps coming back to is Samuel Beckett, "who revolutionised drama for ever with his first play". Beckett spent his formative years in Dunbar's native Fermanagh, a connection that makes for a deeply personal film in which Dunbar travels in Beckett's footsteps. The actor explores the places "that inspired Beckett's thinking, shaped his mind and fed his imagination" in a period up to the writing of *Waiting for Godot*, the play that sent "a lightning bolt to the theatre of the 20th century". He traces Beckett's movements from his childhood in Dublin and the Wicklow Hills, to school in Enniskillen (Dunbar's home town), and on to Paris in the 1930s, where he acted as a secretary to James Joyce. Dunbar is keen to dismiss the notion of Beckett's work (and the man) as "difficult and bleak". "I find engaging with Beckett's work to be both life affirming and uplifting," he explains. Dunbar meets others who share his view, including the Irish actors Barry McGovern and Stephen Rea, who were directed by Beckett, the photographer John Minihan, and the actress Clara Simpson, who regularly performs Beckett's *Not I*. He also finds out about the period Beckett spent in Roussillon, the village in southeastern France where he hid from the Germans during the war and where the artist Marc Chagall was his neighbour. *Joe Clay*

Snow Animals
BBC One, 7pm

We've all got our techniques for getting through this time of year — Alka-Seltzer, thermal vest, the odd early night — but Liz Bonnin introduces a few critters who have it slightly tougher than us humans during the winter months. Bonnin gently guides us through the science of how various animals adapt to survive the winter, but mainly this is an excuse to enjoy the sight of Siberian chipmunks stuffing their big cheeks full of nuts, ewok-like snub-nosed monkeys

BBC One

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.00 FILM: Planes: Fire & Rescue (U, 2014)** Animated adventure sequel with the voice of Dane Cook **10.15 FILM: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (U, 2005)** Oscar-winning animated adventure with the voice of Peter Sallis (AD) **11.35** The Highway Rat. Animated comedy with the voice of David Tennant (r) (AD) **12.00** Life in the Snow. Gordon Buchanan meets animals that live in snowy conditions (r) (AD) **1.00pm** BBC News **1.15** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.25 FILM: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (12, 2008)** The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel starring Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchett (AD) **3.20 FILM: Shrek 2 (U, 2004)** The ogre meets his in-laws, who are decidedly unimpressed with their daughter's choice of husband. Animated adventure sequel featuring the voices of Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz (AD) **4.45** Top of the Pops New Year Special. With Mabel, Lewis Capaldi, Blossoms and Jack Savoretti **5.45** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.30** BBC News **6.45** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.05am Sign Zone: Mountain Vets (r) (AD, SL) **7.05** This Farming Life (r) **8.05** The Great British Sewing Bee (r) (AD) **10.05** Roger Moore: Talking Pictures (r) **11.05 FILM: Escape to Athena (PG, 1979)** Allied PoWs on a Greek island plan to defy the SS with the help of a liberal-minded camp commandant. Second World War adventure starring Roger Moore **1.00pm FILM: The Apartment (PG, 1960)** **A clerk lends his boss his flat for affairs, who ends up seducing the girl his employee has always loved from afar. Comedy drama with Jack Lemmon (b/w).** ***See Viewing Guide*** **3.00 FILM: Some Like It Hot (U, 1959)** Two musicians who witness a Mob killing don drag and join an all-girl band to evade the gangsters on their trail. Romantic comedy with Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe (b/w) **5.00** Australia: Earth's Magical Kingdom. How the country's surrounding oceans — the Southern Sea, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean — create a unique environment (r) (AD) **6.00** Weasels: Feisty and Fearless. Weasels are often portrayed as villains and associated with bad behaviour. However, it is possible they are merely misunderstood, as this film reveals (r)

ITV

6.00am Good Morning Britain **8.30** Lorraine **9.25** Judge Rinder (r) **10.30** Midsomer Murders. Barnaby and Jones investigate the mysterious death of a man who promised his fortune to several retainers and a niece he had never met (r) (AD) **12.30pm** ITV News; Weather **12.45 FILM: Twister (PG, 1996)** A storm-chaser and her estranged husband reunite as they take on the dangerous task of mapping the path of a massive tornado. Action thriller starring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton (AD) **2.55** Tenable. Five pub quizzers from south-east London answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Warwick Davis hosts (r) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a star-studded edition of the quiz, in which Shirley Ballas, Danny O'Carroll and Andy Whyment answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine (r) **5.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. Dani Harmer, Eddie Hall, Chemmy Alcott and Alex Horne answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity (r) **6.00** In for a Penny. Stephen Mulhern sets challenges to members of the public in Bournemouth (r) (AD) **6.25** ITV News; Weather **6.40** Regional News; Weather

Channel 4

7.40am Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.40 FILM: Step Up All In (PG, 2014)** Drama starring Ryan Guzman and Briana Evigan **10.50** The Simpsons (r) (AD) **12.20pm FILM: Edward Scissorhands (PG, 1990)** A lonely man-made boy with scissor-like hands is befriended by suburban townspeople — but they later turn against him. Tim Burton's fantasy starring Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder **2.20 FILM: Congo (12, 1995)** An expedition to find King Solomon's diamond mines in the jungles of the Congo disappears without trace. The tycoon behind the mission sends his assistant, a former CIA agent, to find out what became of the explorers — only to discover that the party met a grisly fate at the hands of a horde of vicious apes. Action adventure based on Michael Crichton's novel, with Dylan Walsh, Laura Linney, Tim Curry and Grant Heslov **4.25** A Place in the Sun. A Southampton couple look for a holiday home in the Puglia region of Italy (r) **5.25** The Simpsons. Selma dates Troy McClure (r) (AD) **5.55** Channel 4 News **6.00** Hollyoaks. As the villagers celebrate New Year's Eve at Nancy's party at The Hutch, there's also a look ahead to events unfolding at New Year's Eve 2020 (r) (AD)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Access **9.20** Friends (r) **11.25** The Yorkshire Vet: Winter on the Moors. Vets Julian Norton and Peter Wright must contend with dark, cold nights, rain and snow as they battle to treat and save patients, including owls and cattle (r) **12.20pm** Neighbours (AD) **12.50 FILM: My Fair Lady (U, 1964)** A cockney flower girl is trained to pass as an upper-class lady by an arrogant elocutionist. Musical starring Audrey Hepburn, Rex Harrison and Stanley Holloway **4.35** Cruising at Christmas with Jane McDonald. The singer embarks on a Christmas tour of Norway, visiting the world's largest gingerbread city before heading deeper into the Arctic circle to attend a Viking midwinter banquet (r) **5.30** Neighbours. Pierce's New Year's Eve party stirs Hendrix's wounds (r) (AD) **6.00** Gallagher Premiership Rugby Highlights. Action from the seventh round of fixtures, featuring Exeter Chiefs v Saracens at Sandy Park, Harlequins v Leicester Tigers at Twickenham, Bristol Bears v Wasps at Ashton Gate, Northampton Saints v Gloucester at Franklin's Gardens, Bath v Sale Sharks at The Recreation Ground and Worcester Warriors v London Irish at Sixways Stadium

2010-2019: the decade that changed TV

7PM

7.00 Snow Animals Liz Bonnin reveals the remarkable strategies wildlife use to survive, and even thrive, in the winter, featuring footage of chipmunks, caribou, bobcat, Arctic foxes and sea otters. *See Viewing Guide*

8PM

8.00 EastEnders Linda continues to lie about what happened to her on Christmas Day (AD)

8.30 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas With Lily Allen, Noddy Holder, Sian Gibson and James Acaster (r)

9PM

9.00 The Trial of Christine Keeler The shooting at Wimpole Mews leads to press attention for Christine, who is tempted by the offer of money for her story, while Profumo tries to deflect any connection to her (2/6) (AD)

10PM

10.00 BBC News

10.20 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.30 Gavin & Stacey Christmas Special One-off festive edition of the comedy, which returns after a nine-year break, to catch up with the Shipmans as they travel to Wales to spend Christmas with the Wests (r) (AD)

11PM

11.35 Iron Man 3 (12, 2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel with Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow (AD)

Late

1.40am-6.00 BBC News

7.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob fly to Enniskillen to fish for pike (5/6) (r) (AD)

7.30 Mastermind Specialist subjects include Douglas Adams and the *Carry On* films

8.00 Only Connect Travel Special The Globetrotters take on the Eurovisionaries

8.30 Christmas University Challenge Trinity Hall, Cambridge takes on St Peter's College, Oxford (6/10)

9.00 Snow Cats and Me Koshka's family continue on the road to recovery, but Bryansk has become so domesticated it is a challenge for Gordon Buchanan to help him find his wild instincts (2/2) (AD)

10.00 Frankie Boyle's 2019 New World Order **The comedian returns with his end of year special, with guests Sara Pascoe and Miles Jupp helping him dissect 2019.** ***See Viewing Guide***

10.45 The Best of 2010-2015 Wipe with Charlie Brooker Highlights of the annual programmes in which the *Black Mirror* creator looked back over the first five years of the decade

12.15am Charlie Brooker's 2016 Wipe The broadcaster takes a satirical look back at 2016 (r) **1.20** Sign Zone: The Apprentice (r) (AD, SL) **2.20** Countryfile. A visit to Tyntesfield in North Somerset (r) (SL) **3.15-4.15** The Baby Has Landed (r) (AD, SL) **5.55-6.55** Sign Zone: MasterChef — The Professionals (r) (AD, SL)

7.00 Emmerdale David anxiously awaits some results (AD)

7.30 Coronation Street Ryan tells Ray that he can stick his job (AD)

8.00 Countrywise: Guide to Britain Ben Fogle takes a chilly naked dip in one of Snowdonia's hidden lakes (r)

8.30 Coronation Street The residents reel as the true nature of Gary's work is revealed. Johnny and Jenny confront Ray in the bistro (AD)

9.00 Alan Carr's Celebrity Re-Play 2019 **The comedian is joined by six famous faces for a games night as they look back at memorable moments of 2019, with one famous couple having the chance to win £25,000 for charity.** ***See Viewing Guide*** **(AD)**

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.15 The Holiday (12, 2006) Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black and Jude Law (AD)

12.35am Teleshopping 3.00 Flying Scotsman with Robson Green. The presenter spends a year working with the team of engineers who have been commissioned to rebuild the most famous steam engine in the world (r) (SL) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05-6.00** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen. Ainsley Harriott takes a tour of Tobago (r) (SL)

7.00 Great Canal Journeys Timothy West and Prunella Scales return to the Oxford Canal, the waterway where they first fell in love with boating more than 40 years ago (r) (AD)

8.00 Christmas Sales: Supershoppers Special Sabrina Grant and Helen Skelton investigate the tricks that retailers use to get people to spend, and offer advice on how to get the best deals in seasonal sales (AD)

9.00 Sarah Millican: Control Enthusiast A stand-up performance by the comedian, including topics such as road rage, IBS, her favourite word and how she lets her husband know "tonight's the night" (r)

10.05 Little Fockers (12, 2010) A father of twins invites his family to his kids' birthday party and tries to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro (AD)

11.55 East Is East (15, 1999) Comedy drama starring Om Puri and Jimi Mistry (AD)

1.35am FILM: Sleepless (15, 2017) A Las Vegas cop steals a shipment of cocaine from a casino boss, whose associates kidnap his son in retaliation. Action thriller starring Jamie Foxx and Michelle Monaghan **3.15** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems (r) **5.40-6.05** Extreme Cake Makers (r)

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2019 James Richardson, Eddie Hall and Michelle Ackerley present action from heat four of the showpiece strongman event, held in Bradenton, Florida (9/11)

8.00 World's Most Scenic Railway Journey: Minute By Minute **Feature-length film taking viewers on a journey aboard a Stanier Class 5 4-6-0 locomotive from the foothills of Ben Nevis down the West Highland route to meet the sea at the port of Mallaig. The programme is with train driver Ian Riley and train guard and manager Florence MacClean for the length of the route as the steam train winds its way past lochs, mountains and the world-famous Glenfinnan viaduct, all the while taking in the beautiful ancient vistas of indigenous ferns, heather and bracken.** ***See Viewing Guide***

10.00 Secret in Their Eyes (15, 2015) A tight-knit FBI team is torn apart when the daughter of one of the agents is raped and murdered, and the case goes unsolved. Years later, a member of the team uncovers a new clue that he hopes will allow him to bring the killer to justice. However, the victim's grieving mother is dissatisfied with the law and takes matters into her own hands. Crime drama starring Julia Roberts, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Nicole Kidman

12.15am The Wonderful World of Chocolate at Christmas Featuring a look at Fortnum & Mason's new confectionery department (r) **1.10** The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show **3.10** Access **3.15** The Last Days of Cory Monteith (r) **4.00** The Last Days of Jimi Hendrix (r) **4.45-6.00** House Doctor (r) (SL)

television & radio

huddling together in a blizzard and fluffy bobcats face-planting in the snow as they hunt.

World's Most Scenic Railway
Channel 5, 8pm

Chuff, chuff, chuff. We know Channel 5 can do trains, but can it do slow TV? The answer, as the camera wends its way peacefully through the Scottish Highlands on a Black 5 steam locomotive, is yes. It's a simple idea: put the viewer on board the beautiful Fort William to Mallaig service, which takes in the foothills of Ben Nevis, Loch Eil, pristine forests and the Glenfinnan Viaduct, and allow them to experience, minute by minute, the blissful journey. You even get a glimpse inside the driver's cab too. Lovely.

Alan Carr's Celebrity Re-Play
ITV, 9pm

If you want the gloom-tinted summary of 2019, Frankie Boyle will be giving the year a jolly good kicking on BBC Two at 10pm (see right). However, if you want a bit more fizz in your prosecco this evening, join the effervescent Alan Carr for a more whimsical look at the previous 12 months. He'll be joined by a few celeb chums for "hilarious clips, must-see virals, comedy moments and surprise guests", plus we'll see one famous couple attempt to win £25,000 for charity.

Frankie Boyle's New World Order
BBC Two, 10pm

In 2017 the Pollokshaws polemicist ended the year by taking aim at Brexit, Jeremy Corbyn and Boris Johnson ("a malevolent baked Alaska") in his scabrous annual round-up. What could be the misanthropic comic's targets for this 2019 edition? Expect Prince Andrew, the general election, Greta Thunberg, Donald Trump, China and Jennifer Arcuri to feature, as Boyle and his guests — the comedians Sara Pascoe, Miles Jupp, Kiri Pritchard-McLean and Jamali Maddix — shoot fish in a barrel. But can Boyle find a glimmer of hope for us in 2020?

Film The Apartment
BBC Two, 1pm

Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray star in Billy Wilder's note-perfect black comedy. It's beautifully judged: the stinging satire about corporate corruption is softened by the melancholy at its heart. (PG, 1960)

Sky One

6.00am Futurama (r) (AD) **7.00** Modern Family (r) **8.00** Cats and the Movie Musical: Special (r) **9.00** The Simpsons (r) **10.30** David Attenborough's Galapagos (r) (AD) **1.30pm** The Bachelor King (r) (AD) **3.00** David Attenborough's Natural History Museum Alive (r) (AD) **4.30** The Simpsons (r) **6.00** Futurama. Fry unleashes an acid-spewing monster on the world (r) (AD) **6.30** The Simpsons. Triple bill (r) **8.00** A League of Their Own (r) (AD) **9.00** The Russell Howard Hour: Best Of 2019. Funnyman Russell Howard looks back at 2019 **10.00 FILM: The Shawshank Redemption (15, 1994)** A banker wrongly jailed for his wife's murder forms an extraordinary friendship with a fellow inmate over the course of their sentences. Drama with Tim Robbins **12.45am** Romesh's Look Back to the Future (r) **1.45** A League of Their Own (r) (AD) **2.50** Brit Cops: War on Crime (r) **3.55** Road Wars (r) **5.00** Snake Boss (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Storm City (r) (AD) **7.00** Fish Town (r) **8.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **9.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (r) **10.00** The West Wing (r) **12.00** Without a Trace **2.00pm** Blue Bloods (r) (AD) **3.00** The West Wing (r) **5.00** Without a Trace (r) **6.00** Without a Trace. Jack fights to save two missing persons (r) **7.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. An explosion threatens the outcome of a case (r) **8.00** Blue Bloods. Danny and Erin clash when a case is reopened (r) (AD) **9.00** Game of Thrones. The fantasy drama returns for its eighth and final season (r) (AD) **10.05** Game of Thrones. Daenerys learns the truth about her relationship with Jon (r) (AD) **11.15** Game of Thrones. The Night King and the army of the dead reach Winterfell, and an epic battle between the living and the dead begins. Starring Emilia Clarke (r) (AD) **12.50am** Ray Donovan (r) **2.00** The Night Of (r) (AD) **4.20** The West Wing (r)

Sky Witness

6.00am Nothing to Declare (r) (AD) **8.00** Sun, Sea and A&E (r) (AD) **9.00** The Real A&E (r) (AD) **2.00pm** Stop, Search, Seize **6.00** Stop, Search, Seize. Documentary **7.00** Nothing to Declare. The work of customs officers in Australia (r) (AD) **7.30** Nothing to Declare. The work of customs officers in Australia (r) (AD) **8.00** Criminal Minds. The agents travel to Miami, where a suspect has begun sensationalising his crimes by sending exclusive footage to the local media (r) **9.00** The InBetween. Cassie helps out an idol from her childhood (8/10) **10.00** Criminal Minds. A suspicious plane crash mirrors a tragedy from Kate's past (r) **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A kidnap victim's leg is discovered in a canal (r) **12.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (r) **1.00am** Criminal Minds (r) **2.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (r) **3.00** Criminal Minds (r) **4.00** Nothing to Declare (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am Celtic Woman: Ancient Land **8.00** Sarah Brightman: Hymn **10.00** The Legendary Bing Crosby (AD) **11.15** Mario Lanza: The Best of Everything (AD) **1.00pm** Hamilton: One Shot to Broadway **2.30** Discovering: Stevie Wonder **3.00** Discovering: The Beach Boys **3.30** Discovering: The Monkees **4.00** Discovering: Tina Turner **4.30** Discovering: Carpenters **5.00** Discovering: The Mamas & the Papas **5.30** Discovering: Bee Gees (AD) **6.00** Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison **7.00** John Wayne: America at All Costs **8.00** Dusty Springfield: Music Icons **8.30** Il Divo: Timeless — Live in Japan. A concert by the classical crossover group **10.00** André Rieu: Wedding Special **11.00** André Rieu: World Tour **12.00** Frank Sinatra: The Main Event — Live from Madison Square Garden **1.00am** We Remember Marilyn **3.00** Discovering: Clint Eastwood **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Robert De Niro

Sky Main Event

6.00am Total Goals **7.30** Live Test Cricket: South Africa v England. Coverage of the fifth and final day of the first Test in the four-match series, taking place at Supersport Park, Centurion **3.00pm** Test Cricket Bitesize **3.15** Cricket Debate **4.00** Sky Sports News **5.00** Sky Sports News at 5 **6.00** Sky Sports News at 6 **7.00** Live World Darts Championship. All the action from day 15 at Alexandra Palace in London, featuring the semi-finals, played over the best of 11 sets **11.00** Live NBA: The Warm Up. A look ahead to tonight's fixtures **11.30** I'm Game **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Live WWE Late Night Raw. Wrestling action from the States with the over-the-top stars, featuring the likes of Seth Rollins and Finn Balor. Presented by Michael Cole, Corey Graves and Renee Young **4.15** Great Sporting Moments (AD) **4.30** Sporting Records (AD) **5.00** Sky Sports News

Read how Netflix has changed our relationships with each other at the-tls.co.uk/TVdecade

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BBC Four

7.00pm Lucy Worsley's Fireworks for a Tudor Queen. The historian teams up with materials scientist Zoe Laughlin in an ambitious attempt to recreate one of the earliest and most spectacular firework displays in Britain (AD) **8.30** A Slow Odyssey: An Eagle's Flight (AD) **9.00** Lost Home Movies of Nazi Germany. Amateur footage from the latter half of the war offers an insight into life and atrocities in Germany and the occupied territories as Hitler's dreams crumble (2/2) **10.00** Searching for Sam: Adrian Dunbar on Samuel Beckett. Thirty years after the playwright's death in Paris, the *Line of Duty* star Adrian Dunbar explores the life and work of Samuel Beckett to find out about the man behind *Waiting for Godot*. *See Viewing Guide* **11.00** Janet Baker: In Her Own Words. The classical singer looks back on her life and career, discussing the traumatic death of her brother when she was 10 and her decision to retire from performance in her 50s **12.30am** TOTP2 New Year's Eve Special **1.45** Arena: Make Me Up! **2.55-3.55** Lost Home Movies of Nazi Germany (SL)

E4

6.00am Hollyoaks (AD) **7.30** Celebrity Christmas Come Dine with Me **8.00** How I Met Your Mother (AD) **9.00** Mike & Molly **10.00** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **11.00** The Goldbergs (AD) **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine (AD) **1.00pm** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **2.00** Mike & Molly **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine (AD) **4.00** The Goldbergs (AD) **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.15 FILM: Ice Age: The Meltdown (U, 2006)** Animated adventure sequel with the voice of Ray Romano **7.00** Hollyoaks (AD) **7.30** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.40** The Great New Year's Bake Off. Four former contestants compete to win the Festive Star Baker title (AD) **9.00** Made in Chelsea: Happy New Yah **10.00** Made in Chelsea: End of Yah Quiz. Matt Edmondson and Mollie King join the cast to look back on 2019. Last in the series **11.05** Naked Attraction. Dating show hosted by Anna Richardson (AD) **12.15am** Gogglebox (AD) **1.20** Gogglebox 2019 (r) (AD) **3.15** Made in Chelsea: End of Yah Quiz **4.10** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **5.00** How I Met Your Mother (AD)

More4

8.55am A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **11.00** Escape to the Château (AD) **12.05pm** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **6.25** Come Dine with Me **6.55** Come Dine with Me. A massage therapist hosts the fourth dinner party **7.25** Come Dine with Me. A mental-health nurse hosts the final dinner party **8.00** Escape to the Château. Dick, Angel and the family move into their crumbling château with flies everywhere (2/4) (AD) **9.00 FILM: The Dressmaker (12, 2015)** In 1950s Australia, a fashion designer returns to her remote home town, planning to reconcile with her mother and get even with her enemies. Drama starring Kate Winslet (AD) **11.20** 24 Hours in A&E. A man suffers serious spinal injuries after falling off a mountain bike. As doctors assess the extent of the damage, his wife recalls growing up in apartheid-era South Africa (AD) **12.25am** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.25** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.30-3.55** Father Ted (AD)

Film4

11.00am The Rugrats Movie (U, 1998) Animated comedy with the voice of Elizabeth Daily **12.40pm Ice Age: Collision Course (U, 2016)** Animated sequel with the voice of Ray Romano **2.40 Kubo and the Two Strings (PG, 2016)** Animated adventure with the voice of Charlize Theron **4.45 Monster Trucks (PG, 2016)** Fantasy adventure starring Lucas Till **6.55 Fantastic Four (12, 2015)** Superhero adventure starring Miles Teller (AD) **9.00 Transformers: Age of Extinction (12, 2014)** The shape-changing robots emerge from hiding when technology from their own world threatens the human race. Sci-fi adventure starring Mark Wahlberg and Stanley Tucci (AD) **12.15am Bad Neighbours (15, 2014)** A suburban couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship with the raucous student household living next door. Comedy starring Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne (AD) **2.10-4.00 Frank (15, 2014)** An aspiring musician joins a band led by an eccentric musical genius who hides his face at all times. Comedy drama starring Domhnall Gleeson, Michael Fassbender and Maggie Gyllenhaal

ITV2

6.00am The Planet's Funniest Animals **6.20** I'm a Celebrity: Surviving the Jungle **7.10** The Boxer & The Ballroom Dancer (AD) **8.00** Emmerdale (AD) **8.30** Coronation Street (AD) **9.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **10.00** I'm a Celebrity: Legends of the Jungle **11.00** Take Me Out Emergency Services Special **12.00** Emmerdale (AD) **12.30pm** Coronation Street (AD) **1.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **2.00** You've Been Framed! Gold: Family Special **3.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.30 FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (U, 2010)** Comedy sequel (AD) **5.10 FILM: Despicable Me 2 (U, 2013)** Animated comedy sequel (AD) **7.15 FILM: Hotel Transylvania 2 (U, 2015)** Animation with the voice of Adam Sandler (AD) **9.00 FILM: Pitch Perfect (12, 2012)** Comedy starring Anna Kendrick (AD) **11.15** Family Guy (AD) **12.10am** American Dad! (AD) **1.05** Plebs (AD) **2.05 FILM: The Five-Year Engagement (15, 2012)** Romantic comedy (AD) **4.15** BGT: Top 10 Comedy Corkers **5.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **5.30** The Planet's Funniest Animals **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

6.00am The Royal (AD) **8.10 FILM: Mutiny on the Buses (PG, 1972)** Comedy starring Reg Varney (AD) **9.55 FILM: The Secret Garden (U, 1993)** Children's drama based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's book, with Kate Maberly and Maggie Smith **12.00 FILM: Carry On Doctor (PG, 1967)** A popular doctor is sacked after a misunderstanding ruins his reputation, so the patients campaign to get him reinstated. Comedy starring Jim Dale, Frankie Howerd and Sid James (AD) **1.50pm FILM: Carry On Camping (PG, 1969)** Comedy starring Sid James (AD) **3.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Vera. The detective investigates when the charred remains of a colleague are found in an abattoir furnace. Brenda Blethyn returns for an eighth series of mysteries (1/4) (AD) **10.00** Vera. The detective investigates when a seemingly beloved resident of a coastal community is fatally driven off the road. Crime drama starring Brenda Blethyn (2/4) (AD) **12.00** A Touch of Frost (AD) **1.55am** Inspector Morse (SL) **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

6.00am World of Sport: TV Firsts **6.10** The Protectors (SL) **6.40** The Saint **7.30 FILM: Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective (15, TVM, 1989)** Detective drama starring Peter Falk **9.25** Minder (AD) **10.30** The Sweeney **11.35** The Professionals (AD) **12.40pm** The Saint **1.50** Kojak **2.50** Quincy ME **3.55 FILM: Columbo: Strange Bedfellows (PG, TVM, 1995)** Crime drama starring Peter Falk and Rod Steiger (AD) **5.55** The Sweeney **7.00** The Chase. Quiz show **8.00 FILM: Rocky III (PG, 1982)** Boxing drama starring Sylvester Stallone (AD) **10.00 FILM: Rambo III (18, 1988)** Vietnam veteran John Rambo heads for Afghanistan on a quest to rescue his old boss Colonel Trautman from prison. Action adventure sequel with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna (AD) **12.10am FILM: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (18, 1995)** Action adventure sequel starring Steven Seagal **2.15** Speed Freaks **3.05** The Americans (AD) **4.15** ITV4 Nightscreen **4.25 FILM: Columbo: Strange Bedfellows (PG, TVM, 1995)** Crime drama with Peter Falk (SL)

Dave

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Modern Wheels or Classic Steals **8.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **9.00** Eddie Eats America **10.00** American Pickers: Best Of **12.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **2.05pm** Gavin & Stacey (AD) **6.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race 2015: London **8.00** Not Going Out. Geoffrey reluctantly allows Lee to help clean up his new kitchen extension **8.40** Not Going Out. Lucy arranges a special surprise for Lee's birthday **9.20** Not Going Out. A missing toy keyring leads to a rift with Toby and Anna **10.00** Not Going Out. Lee and Lucy get a family pet in an attempt to teach the children to be more responsible **10.40** Mock the Week. With James Acaster, Ed Byrne, Gary Delaney, Ivo Graham and Zoe Lyons **11.20** Would I Lie to You? Richard Madeley, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kate Humble and Miles Jupp join in the fun on the game show **12.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You. Extended edition from November 2018 **1.00am** QI XL **2.15** Sliced (AD) **2.50** Would I Lie to You? **3.20** Mock the Week **4.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** The House of Eliott **8.00** Soldier, Soldier **9.00** The Bill **10.00** Classic Holby City **11.00** Classic Casualty **12.00** The Bill **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders **2.20** Call the Midwife (AD) **5.30** The 39 Steps (AD) **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. A festive edition from 1992 **8.00** Father Brown. The priest becomes embroiled in an art heist (AD) **9.00** Death in Paradise. The Saint Marie Literary Festival is rocked by the death of a young literature student — and Florence's childhood friend — whose body is discovered at the bottom of a cliff (2/8) (AD) **10.20** New Tricks. An old friend asks Gerry to investigate the murder of his grandson, and Sasha is forced to work with her ex-husband. Dennis Waterman and Tamzin Outhwaite star (1/10) (AD) **11.40** Silent Witness. Nikki travels to Mexico to attend the funeral of a Lyell Centre intern murdered in a carjacking, but soon realises the body is not her ex-colleague (AD) **2.15am** The House of Eliott **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.00am WW2 Price of Empire **8.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** The Blue Planet. Eight episodes (AD) **6.00pm** The Blue Planet. David Attenborough describes marine life at the poles (AD) **7.00** Underground Worlds. An underground city beneath a forest in Northern France built to house 3,000 people, an ice cave under Iceland's biggest glacier, and a subterranean power station in London (6/10) **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. A ruined compound on the edge of a peninsula in Colombia which was once home to a famous outlaw and the strange towers looming over red-tinted waters in a Portuguese landscape (6/12) (AD) **9.00** Bangers and Cash. A Cold War Soviet classic goes under the hammer (6/10) **10.00** Train Truckers. The crew visits Germany to collect a multi-million-pound maintenance machine (6/6) **11.00** Steam Train Britain (AD) **12.00** War Factories **1.00am** Royals on the Frontline (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC One N Ireland
As BBC One except: 8.30pm-9.00 The Open at Royal Portrush **10.30** Give My Head Peace **11.00** Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special (r) **11.30** Gavin & Stacey Christmas Special (r) (AD) **12.35am-1.40** Michael McIntyre's Big Show (r)

BBC One Scotland
As BBC One except: 8.30pm-9.00 Des Doesn't Do: Dogs. *Love Island*'s Laura Anderson teaches Des Clarke about man's best friend (r)

BBC One Wales
As BBC One except: 8.30pm-9.00 Epic: Party Like It's 1999. A look back at how people across Wales marked the turn of the millennium

BBC Two N Ireland
As BBC Two except: 10.00pm Rugby Union PRO14 Highlights **11.00** Frankie Boyle's 2019 New World Order. The comedian returns with his end of year special, with guests Sara Pascoe and Miles Jupp helping him dissect the bewildering year that was 2019. *See Viewing Guide* **11.45-1.20am** The Best of 2010-2015 Wipe with Charlie Brooker

BBC Two Wales
As BBC Two except: 7.00pm-7.30 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (r) **10.45** Rugby Union: PRO14 Highlights **11.45-1.20am** The Best of 2010-2015 Wipe with Charlie Brooker

STV
As ITV except: 12.35am Bang on the Money. "The Arc Angels" from Northampton take on "The Pageant People" in one final round of the game show. Hosted by Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom (r) **1.25-5.05** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service

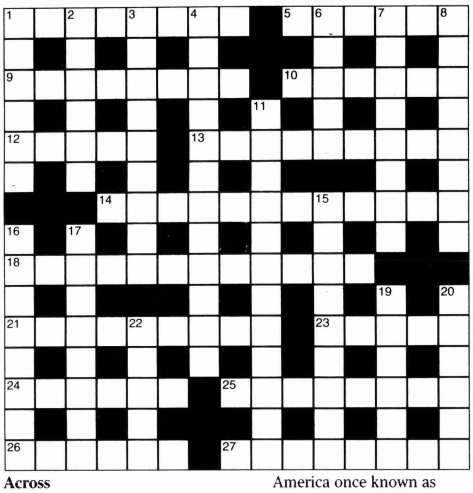
BBC Scotland
1.00pm-7.00 As BBC Two except: 1.00pm Sign Zone: Inside Central Station (r) **2.00-3.00** Sign Zone: Born to Be Wild (r) **7.00** Rugby Union PRO14 Highlights **8.00** Proms in the Park **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **11.00** The Best of Breaking the News (r) **11.30-Midnight** Behind the Mascara: Jamie Genevieve — Our Lives (r) (AD)

BBC Alba
7.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Zog (r) **5.30** An Fhaochag agus a' Mhuc-mhara (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Rannan Rapach (Revolting Rhymes) (r) **6.35** Na Moomins/Moomin Valley (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.05** Quay Sessions (r) **7.30** Dealbhan Fraoich (Heather's Portraits) (r) **8.00** Geamannan nan Eilean 2019/Island Games 2019 (r) **8.30** Coisir Eurovision (r) **9.00** Curaidh na Coille/Birdman of Pollok (r) **10.00** Am Posadh Afraganach/The African Wedding (r) **11.00** Opry le Daniel (r) **11.55** Fraochy Bay (r) **12.00-7.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Twm Tisian (r) **6.10** Digbi Draig (r) **6.25** Halibalw (r) **6.35** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **6.45** Loti Borloti (r) **7.00** Sam Tân (r) **7.10** Timpo **7.20** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **7.35** Nos Da Cyw **7.45** Asra (r) **8.00** Y Crads Bach (r) **8.05** Twt (r) **8.20** Cacamwnci (r) **8.35** Meic y Marchog (r) **8.45** Nico Nôg (r) **8.55** Boj (r) **9.05** Do Re Mi Dona (r) **9.20** Octonots (r) **9.35** Oli Wyn (r) **9.45** Cei Bach (r) **10.00** Peppa (r) **10.05** Meic y Marchog (r) **10.20** Bach a Mawr (r) **10.35** Octonots (r) **10.45** Sbarc (r) **11.00** Cymylaubychain (r) **11.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **11.20** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **11.35** Shwshaswyn (r) **11.45** Cei Bach (r) **12.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Garejis: Dan y Bonet (r) (AD) **12.30** Mamwlad Gyda Ffion Hague (r) **1.00** 3 Lle (r) **1.30** Hwyl Steddfod y Ffermwyr Ifanc 2019 (r) **3.00** Hewlfa Drysor (r) (AD) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Peppa (r) **4.05** Awr Fawr: Bach a Mawr (r) **4.20** Awr Fawr: Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **4.35** Awr Fawr: Shwshaswyn (r) **4.45** Awr Fawr: Sbarc (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Larfa (r) **5.05** Stwnsh: Oi! Osgar (r) **5.10** Stwnsh: Dreigiau — Marchogion Berc (r) **5.30** Stwnsh: Sgorio **6.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **6.05** Prosiect Pum Mil (r) (AD) **7.00** Uchafbwyntiau'r Wyl Cerdd Dant 2019 **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Adre. With the interior designer Mandy Watkins **9.00** O'r Diwedd 2019. Comedians take a satirical look back at the year **10.00** Taith Tylluan yr Eira **11.00-11.35** Ar Werth (r)

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 5



Across

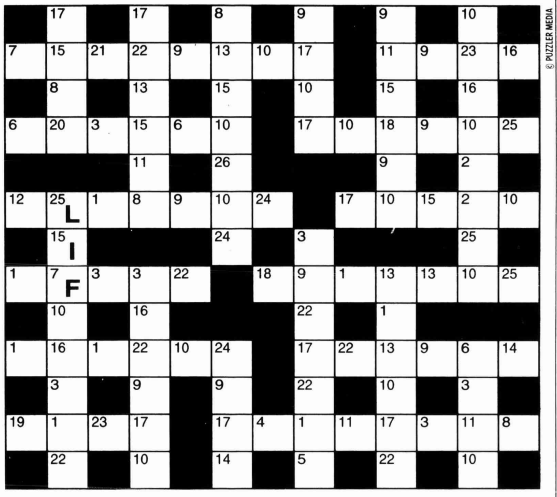
1 Bushy-tailed mammal of Chinese bamboo forests (3,5)
5 Union soldier in the American Civil War (6)
9 Geological period notable for an explosion in marine life (8)
10 AJ ---, Scottish novelist who created Dr Finlay (6)
12 Canonical hour between sext and vespers (5)
13 Decorative shoulder piece on a military uniform (9)
14 Author of *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* (6,6)
18 Jewish New Year festival (4,8)
21 Group of eight elite US universities including Yale and Princeton (3,6)
23 Young of the eel (5)
24 Frank ---, 1960s singer known for his distinctive yodelling style (6)
25 Indigenous people of NE America once known as the Five Nations (8)
26 Angular measure equal to one 60th of a degree (6)
27 Mountain range in which Andorra is located (8)

Down

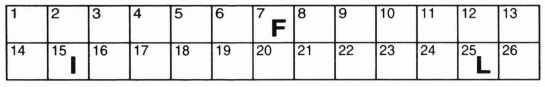
1 French 17th-century writer of *Phèdre* and *Andromaque* (6)
2 Fats ---, influential early rock'n'roll musician (6)
3 US band fronted by Steven Tyler (9)
4 Strait connecting Atlantic and Pacific oceans (5,7)
6 Month during which St George's Day falls (5)
7 Actor who played DCI Red Metcalfe in the TV series *Messiah* (3,5)
8 South African golfer nicknamed the Big Easy (5,3)
11 "Nine days' queen" executed in 1554 (4,4,4)
15 Ballet position, or an intricate ornamental design (9)
16 Belief system practised by pre-Christian Celts (8)
17 Member of an ancient empire centred around the cities of Assur and Nineveh (8)
19 Greek soldier whose shoes bear ceremonial pomposms (6)
20 Van Gogh painting sold for a world-record price in 1987 (6)
22 Israeli Red Sea port (5)

Last week's solution

Codeword No 3845



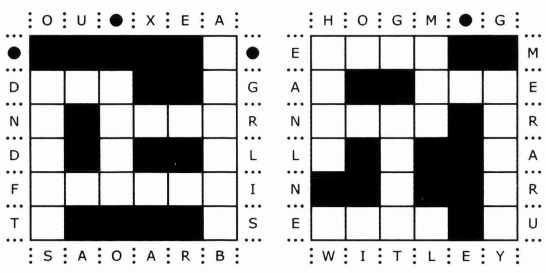
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

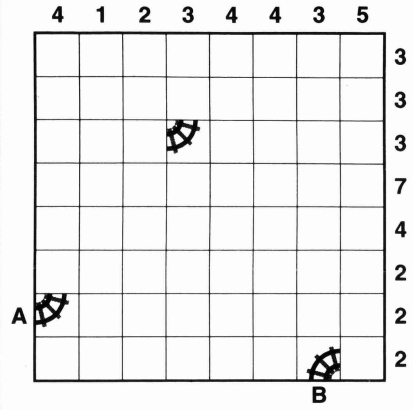
Clue lines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 84901. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica No 5111 No 5112



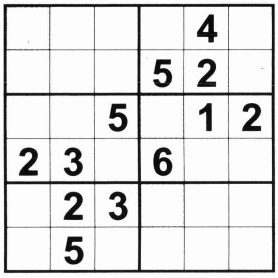
Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 906



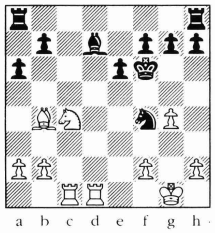
Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Mini Sudoku



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

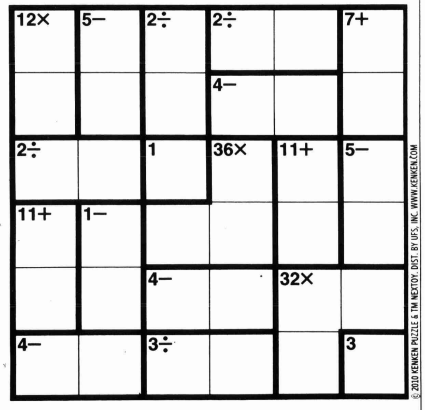
Winning Move



White to play. This position is from Petrov-Mislaurov, Maikop 2019.

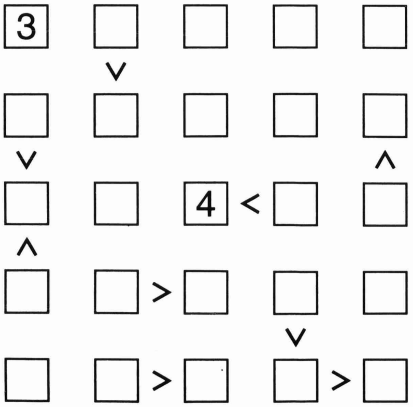
The bishop on d7 is loose but Black's plan is to meet 1 Rxd7 with 1 ... Ne2+ and 2 ... Nxc1, winning rook for bishop. Unfortunately this plan contains a serious flaw. What is the problem and how did White continue?

KenKen Easy No 4837



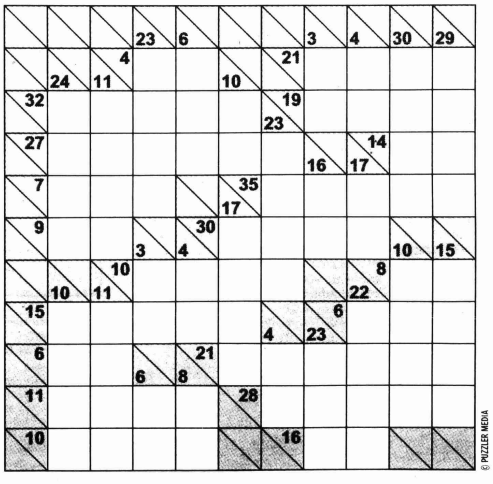
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 3596



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

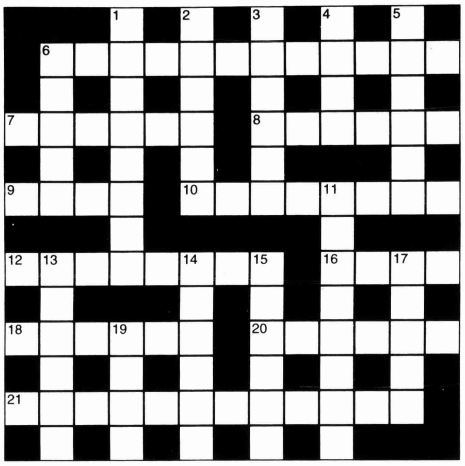
Kakuro No 2555



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

MindGames

times2 Crossword No 8161



Across

6 Spongy sweets (12)
7 Removes dirt from (6)
8 Pastoral poems (6)
9 Overdue; dead (4)
10 University teacher (8)
12 Area formed by evaporation of brine (4,4)
16 Fine food shop (4)
18 Relating to one form of iron (6)
20 Scold angrily (6)
21 Useful, beneficial (12)

Down

1 Munitions (8)
2 Cutting tool (6)
3 Obsessive enthusiast (6)
4 Co-operating state (4)
5 One dozen (6)
6 Mediterranean island (5)
11 One thought to have little chance of winning (8)
13 Makes minor improvements (6)
14 Find; place (6)
15 Island near Trinidad (6)
17 Stringed instruments (5)
19 Brazilian currency (4)

Solution to Crossword 8160

G	A	T	E	A	U			B	A	I	L			
	M		M	V		C		N		I				
	A	Z	I	M	U	T	H		T		Q			
	Z		G		L		U	N	I	Q	U	E		
D	O	O	R	J	A	M	B				O			
	N		A				B	E	L	F	R	Y		
		T		S		Y		U						
O	E	D	E	M	A				K		S			
	N			T	A	T	T	E	R	E	D			
S	T	Y	M	I	E		O		W		C			
	R		A		E	X	P	I	A	T	E			
	A		I		N		E		R		D			
	P	A	N	G			R	A	M	M	E	D		

Need a hint with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

"My dear Watson, the whole deal was an open book at trick one."

Watson looked baffled. "Holmes, you've lost your mind — nothing has happened. West has led some, I don't know, low card, and that's it." (Think Nigel Bruce, spluttering a bit.)

"Watson, West led the two of clubs. So West has only four clubs, pretty poor ones as we have the ace-king-queen. Wouldn't West have led a five-card suit if he'd held one? Wouldn't West lead partner's hearts if he'd held even two of them?"

"I suppose so," replied Watson grudgingly.

"West must therefore be 4♠1♥4♦4♣." Holmes barely paused for breath, his mind racing. "West would have been choosing between his four-card spades and clubs. If his spades were headed by the ace or king, wouldn't he have chosen to lead a spade, rather than those mangy clubs? West must have four poor spades."

Holmes paused for effect. "Which leaves East with ace-king doubleton."

The key inference made, we'll now take over. Knowing that East holds ace-king doubleton of spades, you win trick one with the ace of clubs and lead a low spade out of hand. East duly wins the king and leads a second club.

Winning the queen, you lead a second low spade. East wins the ace and leads a third club. You win dummy's king (discarding a heart from hand) and take the marked heart finesse. The queen wins and you cash the queen-jack and long spade. West throws a diamond and East's three discards are two hearts and his long club.

Admittedly, you don't know who holds the queen of diamonds. (So Holmes wasn't quite right — it wasn't a completely open book.) But you know East still holds his doubleton diamond. If he began with ♦Qx, you could drop the queen to make 11 tricks; if he began with ♦10x, you could cash the king and run the jack, pinning his ten. Misguess and you'll make ten.

No big deal — the key was working out that East held ace-king doubleton spade, obviating the need to lead spades from dummy towards the queen-jack.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Rubber

	♠85 ♥10742 ♦A963 ♣K54	
♠10942 ♥3 ♦Q854 ♣J872	N W E S	♠AK ♥KJ986 ♦102 ♣10963
	♠QJ763 ♥AQ5 ♦KJ7 ♣AQ	

S	W	N	E
			1♥
Dbl(1)	Pass	2♦(2)	Pass
2NT(3)	Pass	3NT	End

(1) A tad strong for 1NT (or, third choice, 1♠).
(2) Close between 1NT and 2♦. I think most modern experts would choose 1NT. ♥10742 will usually prove to be stopper — in conjuction with ♥Jx or something.
(3) Showing a balanced hand too strong to have overcalled 1NT the previous round ie about 19-21.

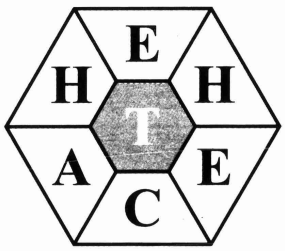
Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ♣2

Brain Trainer

EASY	16	HALF OF IT	÷2	x12	+3/4 OF IT	÷12	x2	DOUBLE IT	+4	+8
MEDIUM	5	x12	+2/3 OF IT	TREBLE IT	DOUBLE IT	+12	−1/3 OF IT	+1/4 OF IT	÷10	x3
HARDER	242	−26	÷36	−1/3 OF IT	SQUARE IT	+7/8 OF IT	x6	+4/5 OF IT	DOUBLE IT	+1/3 OF IT

ANSWER

Polygon



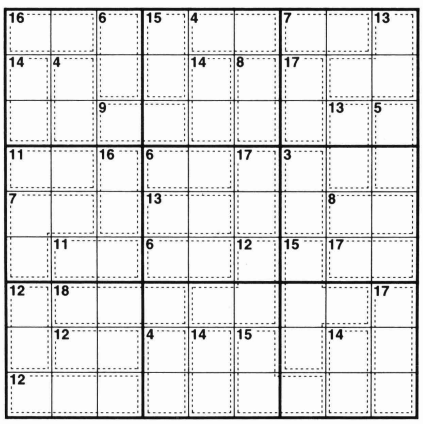
From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.

How you rate 12 words, average; 17, good; 21, very good; 25, excellent

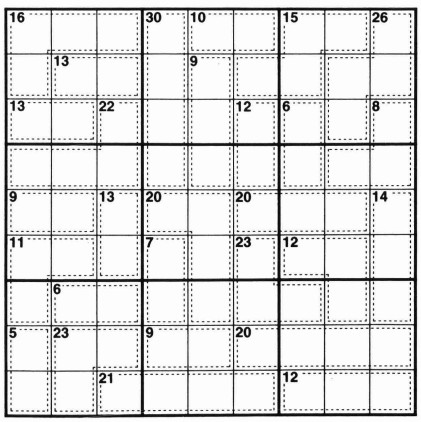
Saturday's answers

adorn, anon, ardor, ardour, around, auto, donut, dour, dout, natron, nonda, noun, orra, outrun, radon, road, roan, roar, rort, rota, rotund, rotunda, round, rout, runaround, taro, toad, torr, tour, **turnaround**, turnround, udon, undo, unto

Killer Gentle No 6939



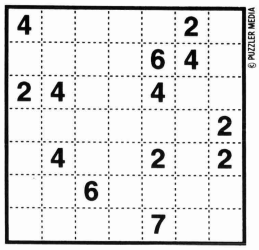
Killer Tricky No 6940



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

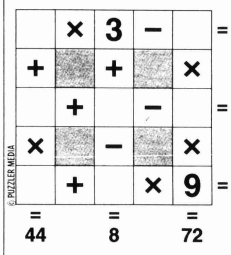
Cluelines **Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 3728



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 2558



Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 1514

A	M	Y		I	M	B	E	C	I	L	E	S		
R	A	N	I		L	R	A	P						
C	O	R	A	C	L	E		E	V	I	T	A		
H		D		H	E	N	D		R			K		
S	T	I	L	T		I	N	T	O	T	A	L		
T	R	R		N		O		E	E					
A	D	D	L	I	N	G		R	A	N	D	R		
L			P		H			E						
K		H		W	O	E		S		M		A		
I	R	A	Q	I		A	N	T	W	E	R	P		
N		L		R		R		I		N		O		
G	A	S	H	E	A	T	E	R		T	I	P		

Codeword 3844

C	A	P	S	I	Z	E	D		T	W	E	E		
I		E		T		M		J		H		X		
N	E	R	V	E		B	O	O	K	I	S	H		
C		T		M		A		I		F		A		
H	A	U	L		W	R	O	N	G	F	U	L		
		R		M		K		E				E		
R	I	B	B	O	N		T	R	A	C	E	D		
O			D		A		Y		R					
S	E	Q	U	E	N	C	E		T	A	L	C		
E		U		S		I		F		N		O		
B	O	O	S	T	E	D		O	P	I	U	M		
U		T		Y		I	O	U		I				
D	U	E	L		A	C	A	D	E	M	I	C		

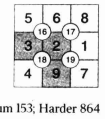
Kakuro 2554

	3	1	7	2		9	8	6	7
3	1	2	9	4		7	9	8	5
1	2	4		1	2		7	5	
	4	9	5		8	4	5	2	1
		7	8	9	3	1		1	3
1	2		6	4	1	2	3		
3	1	2	9	7		5	1	6	
	3	1		8	7		6	8	9
1	9	7	2		6	3	8	9	7
3	8	9	1		9	1	5	7	

Chess — Winning Move

The problem is that after 1 Rxd7! Ne2+ 2 Kf1 Nxc1 White engineers a mating attack with 3 Be7+!, for example 3 ... Kg6 4 Ne5+ Kh6 5 Nxf7+ Kg6 6 Ne5+ Kh6 7 h4! and 8 Bg5 mate is unstoppable

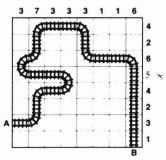
Suko 2746



Square Routes 42

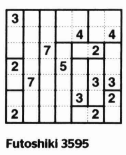
S	I	V	O	U
N	O	E	L	R
H	D	T	O	C
O	R	O	G	I
J	I	A	B	E

Train Tracks 905



Brain Trainer Easy 40; Medium 153; Harder 864

Cell Blocks 3727



Set Square 2557

6	−	4	+	7
÷		+		×
1	×	9	×	3
÷		×		+
2	×	5	×	8

KenKen 4836

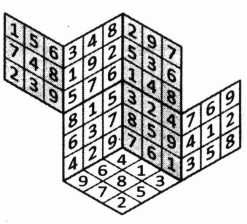
Word watch

Cockscomb (a) A bright-flowered plant
Chouse (c) A cheater or defrauder
Chousb (b) In Turkey, an envoy or attendant

Futoshiki 3595

2	<	3	<	4
∧				∧
3	<	4		5
∨		∧		∨
1		2		3
∨		∨		∨
4		5	>	1
∧		∧		∧
5		1	>	2

Tredoku 1610



Sudoku 11,224

3	7	8	6	1	5	4	2	9
5	1	9	4	2	8	7	6	3
2	4	6	9	3	7	1	8	5
1	9	7	3	5	2	8	4	6
4	8	5	7	6	1	9	3	2
6	3	2	8	9	4	5	7	1
7	2	1	5	4	6	3	9	8
8	6	3	1	7	9	2	5	4
9	5	4	2	8	3	6	1	7

Quintagram

1 Glen
2 Peak
3 Shaman
4 Shepherd
5 High flyers

Lexica 5109

D	E	F	E	N	D
E		I			A
T		T	H	U	D
A			A		
C			D	U	D
H					

Killer 6938

7	1	9	6	2	8	4	3	5
6	5	2	4	9	3	8	7	1
4	8	3	7	5	1	9	2	6
8	2	7	1	6	9	5	4	3
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	1	2
1	6	5	3	4	2	7	9	8
5	9	1	8	3	4	2	6	7
2	7	6	9	1	5	3	8	4
3	4	8	2	7	6	1	5	9

Lexica 5110

S	T	O	W		
	O		I		S
	G		N	O	W
R	A	N	T		E
A			E		P
Y			R	A	T

Quiz

1 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) **2** Barack Obama **3** A foot **4** Cheetah **5** Eccles **6** Cameroon **7** Alex Garland **8** *Diana* **9** Vanderbilts **10** Nick Offerman (Ron Swanson) **11** Simon Doonan **12** [Rabbi] Meir Kahane **13** Shiseido **14** Floyd Patterson **15** Beatrix Potter

THE TIMES

30.12.19

MindGames

Word watch
Josephine Balmer

Cockscomb
a A plant
b An idle threat
c Part of a saddle

Chouse
a To have too many options
b A bird
c A cheater

Choush
a To eat quickly
b An attendant
c To blag

Answers on page 11

Sudoku

Easy No 11,225

							3	2
	2		1			4		6
4		5	8	6	2		9	
8		6	9			5		
	4		7			9		
				4	6	1	8	
7					4	3		
3				2			7	
	1	9			8	2		

Difficult No 11,226

		7	3	8				
		1				2		
9	8		2	5				3
3		2						
6		4				9	2	7
					6	4		
	2			9	5		1	
				4		8		
		3		6				9

Fiendish No 11,227

			3		9			
3	9		8		4		2	5
		1	7		8	2		
2	8						9	1
	3		6		2		4	
4	5			8			3	2
	1						5	

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

GETTY IMAGES

1 In 1951, Louis B Mayer was forced to resign from which movie studio?

2 Which US president wrote the books *Dreams from My Father* and *The Audacity of Hope*?

3 Which imperial unit of measurement is equal to 304.8 millimetres?

4 The sprints of which cat, (*Acinonyx jubatus*) have been measured at a maximum of 71 miles per hour?

5 Which Greater Manchester town is famous for a currant-filled cake first sold there by James Birch in c 1793?

6 Yaoundé is the capital of which French-speaking West African country?

7 Which English author of *The Beach* (1996) directed the films *Ex Machina* and *Annihilation*?

8 In which 1957 song did Paul Anka ask the titular older woman: "Oh, please stay with me"?

9 Which family of railway tycoons built the Breakers, a gilded age mansion, in Newport, Rhode Island?

10 Which *Parks and Recreation* actor has created his own branded bottle of Lagavulin Scotch whisky?

11 Which British-born creative ambassador-at-large for the NYC store Barneys wrote the memoir *Beautiful People*?

12 Egyptian-born US citizen El Sayyid Nosair assassinated which Jewish Defense League founder in 1990?

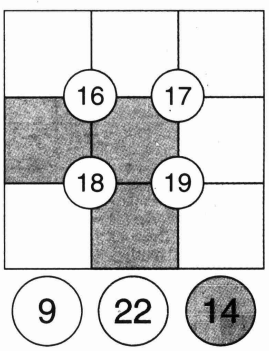
13 Born Bettina Louise Lutz, Tina Chow (1950-92) became the face of which Japanese make-up brand at age 16?

14 Which US boxer said: "It's easy to do anything in victory. It's in defeat that a man reveals himself"?

15 Which English writer and illustrator (1866-1943) is pictured?

Answers on page 11

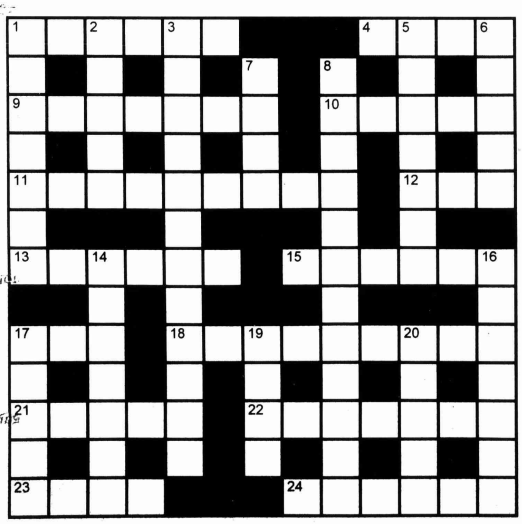
Suko
No 2746



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

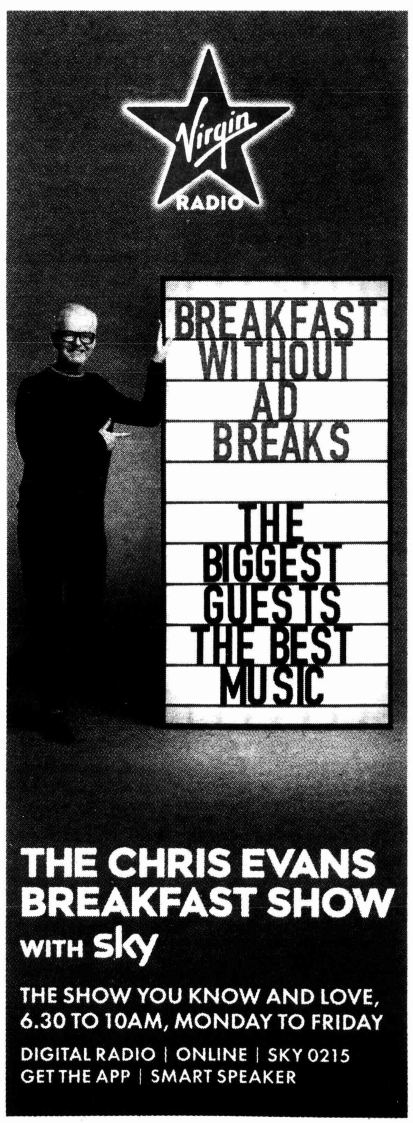
The Times Quick Cryptic
No 1515 by Orpheus



Across
1 High-spirited relative in borders of Jersey (6)
4 Metallic element unknown in China's capital (4)
9 Crackpot's proceedings against teachers? (7)
10 Supporter employed in theatre as elocutionist (5)
11 Certain to be in tears breaking up valuables (9)
12 Grassy area providing shelter, by the sound of it (3)
13 Country game with good person in charge (6)
15 Cook too much, having finished party? (6)
17 Woman abandoned by son, a heavyweight boxer once (3)
18 Weapon in new condition in plant (9)
21 Pugnacity of a gang going round Oxford, originally (5)
22 Flavouring substance in vehicle, one everybody rejected (7)
23 Terrible-sounding person changing colour of cloth? (4)
24 Pay for high-backed bench (6)

Down
1 Doorman brought up rubbish after New Year's Day (7)
2 Free time in university — Edinburgh, principally (5)
3 Brown's undertaking involving king's broadcast (12)
5 Detached ruins scattered around US city (7)
6 Woman about to receive priest (5)
7 For example, the Earl of Emsworth's equal? (4)
8 Tenacity of agent upset over separation (12)
14 Run round hard pebbles on beach (7)
16 Indignation that's not in fashion? (7)
17 A protégé's recognition of distinguished service (5)
19 Covetousness of emissary lacking nothing (4)
20 At home, permitted to see bay (5)

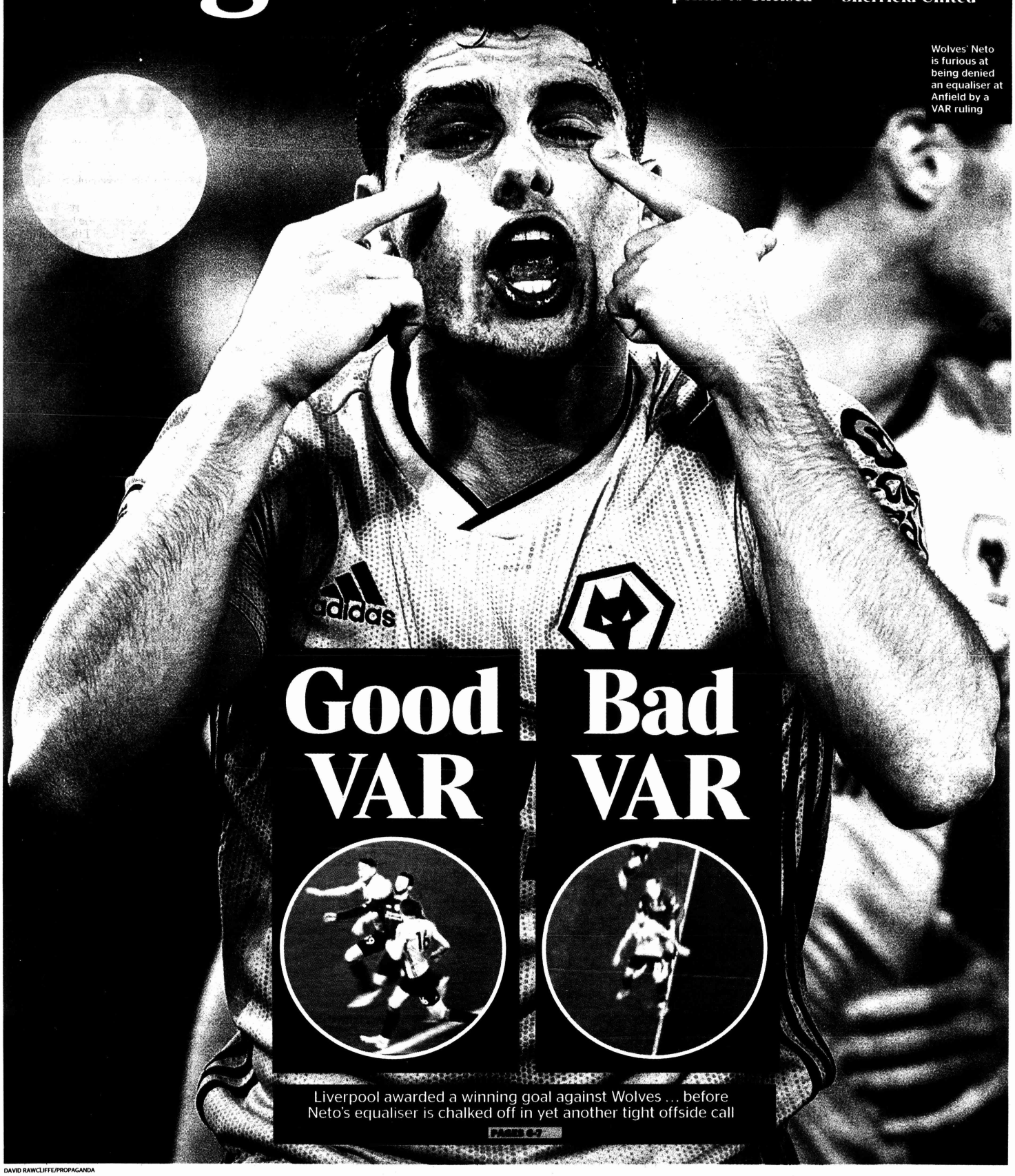
Friday's solution on page 11



THE TIMES
thegame
MONDAY DECEMBER 30 2019

PAGES 2-3
Henry Winter sees Arteta's Arsenal make present of points to Chelsea

PAGE 8
Guardiola rides his luck as City edge past irate Sheffield United



Wolves' Neto is furious at being denied an equaliser at Anfield by a VAR ruling

Good VAR

Bad VAR

Liverpool awarded a winning goal against Wolves ... before Neto's equaliser is chalked off in yet another tight offside call

PAGES 6-7

DAVID RAWCLIFFE/PROPAGANDA

Arteta's plans ruined by Leno horror show

HENRY WINTER

Chief Football Writer at the Emirates

Arsenal	Chelsea
1	2
Aubameyang 13	Jorginho 83, Abraham 87

POSSESSION

42%	58%

SHOTS ON TARGET

2	4

FOULS

13	19

RATINGS

Arsenal (4-2-3-1) B Leno 4 – A Maitland-Niles 6, C Chambers 6 (sub: S Mustafi 23, 7), D Luiz 7, B Saka 7 – L Torreira 7, M Guendouzi 6 – R Nelson 6 (N Pepe 86), M Ozil 7 U Willock 76), P-E Aubameyang 8 – A Lacazette 7. **Subs not used** E Martínez, K Mavrpanos, E Smith Rowe, T John-Jules. **Booked** Guendouzi, Luiz, Torreira, Lacazette, Maitland-Niles.

Chelsea (3-4-3) K Arrizabalaga 6 – A Rüdiger 6, K Zouma 7, F Tomori 6 (T Lamptey 57, 6) – C Azpilicueta 7, N Kanté 5, M Kovacic 5 (C Hudson-Odoi 70, 5), Emerson 5 (Jorginho 34, 6) – Willian 8, T Abraham 7, M Mount 6. **Subs not used** W Caballero, R Barkley, A Christensen, M Batshuayi. **Booked** Mount, Kanté, Rüdiger, Jorginho.

Referee C Pawson

Ten minutes after the first whistle, more than a few Chelsea fans were quietly questioning Frank Lampard's tactics as Arsenal swarmed all over them. Ten minutes after the final whistle, Chelsea's head coach was standing there, punching the air in front of joyous supporters serenading "Super Frankie Lampard" with "He knows exactly what we need: Tomori at the back, Tammy in attack." Lampard also knows exactly how to change games.

Among the many necessities of management is the art of researching opponents meticulously, drilling players relentlessly to prepare for the analysed and anticipated and then responding rapidly to the unexpected. Lampard possessed a cold eye as a midfielder noted for the timing of his runs, momentarily stepping away from the fray, reading the game, espying opportunity and then attacking the space. Such in-game intelligence led to him making tweaks that turned the tide in this typically frenetic London derby.

Lampard thought on his feet more swiftly than his Arsenal counterpart. Mikel Arteta, so new to dugout demands, was less responsive, failing to act as Chelsea grew in strength and his team sat off. It was a contrast with his work in preparation, coaching Arsenal to swamp Lampard's starting system of 3-4-3. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Reiss Nelson were respectively racing behind Lampard's wing backs, César Azpilicueta and especially Emerson.

So for all the frustration felt by Arsenal fans about the defeat, this was largely an encouraging performance, not simply in the new coach's ability to set his side up well but the strong collective spirit and individual contributions from the likes of David Luiz and Mesut Özil, enjoying Arteta's arrival and ideas.

That Arteta failed to respond to Lampard's changes was obviously concerning but it is hardly the Spaniard's fault that his goalkeeper, Bernd Leno, had an aberration, that he has to work with such a deficient defender as Shkodran Mustafi and that Craig Pawson, the referee, made one particularly poor error of judgment that eventually cost Arsenal dear. Otherwise, there was much to admire about Arteta's first match in charge at the Emirates.

"Energy is everything", Arteta wrote in the matchday programme, which must have read like the book of revelations to Arsenal fans vexed by three or four seasons of sluggishness. The team generally, and players like Luiz and Özil individually, needed re-energising.

Arteta was animated in the technical area, emotionally engaged with his players' fortunes, looking the very model of the modern head coach in chic-casual, sporting a jacket with a double zip, not something Arsène Wenger would have risked. Arteta eschewed the big welcome, wanting to get down to business, but his main statements permeated his programme notes with a message to fans that "we play for you", trying to reconnect the club with supporters and telling players of the importance of "attitude and commitment" and making the Emirates a "fortress".

Arteta had told his players to look for Özil quickly, wanting to make the mercurial No 10 a "key player". Arteta has clearly worked on set-piece routines, initially with Özil looking to pick out Luiz before the German swung a corner out towards Calum Chambers, whose run towards the near post caught out Fikayo Tomori. Arteta and his assistant Steve Round had devised a move to clear bodies from the six-yard box, freeing space for Aubameyang.

Easily eluding Emerson, Arsenal's captain met Chambers' flick with a header past Kepa Arrizabalaga. As Aubameyang completed his somersault, Arteta turned and shared the success of a training ground exercise with his coaching staff, before signalling instructions, Rafa Benítez style, to refocus minds.

Arsenal continued to show the "energy" Arteta commanded, defending robustly, pressing high and counterattacking fast. "We needed someone who would come in and shake the whole squad up," Aubameyang wrote in his captain notes. "He is very rigorous and demanding on the training pitch." Aubameyang added that there was an easily understood structure, effectively 4-2-3-1 with the excellent Lucas Torreira anchoring tigerishly, but "freedom within that structure".

Deliberations intensified between Lampard and his assistant Jody Morris. And here was Lampard being decisive after 34 minutes: he sent Jorginho on, removed Emerson, switched to 4-3-3.

Jorginho soon began being first to the second ball, reclaiming midfield from Arsenal. Lampard has an issue now, of which two to perm from Jorginho, N'Golo Kanté and Mateo Kovacic. Jorginho's importance was underlined here.

Lampard twisted again on the hour, introducing Tariq Lamptey for Tomori, who looked uncomfortable at right back. It could have been a gamble by Lampard, giving a debut to a 19-year-old, but he backed his instincts and backed the judgment of Morris and Joe Edwards.

Quick and fearless, the Hillingdon-born England Under-20 player did not let Lampard down, and his emergence, along with Reece James gives Chelsea more substantial right-sided options. If only they had similar quality on the left. Arsenal faded, dropping deeper, and ten minutes later, Lampard unleashed Callum Hudson-Odoi for Kovacic to open them up. Arteta had no answer, partly because the squad is so imbalanced and he has to use below-par players such as Mustafi when Chambers departed with injury. He needs centre backs. He also needs his more reliable players, such as Leno, not to make howlers as the goalkeeper did after 83 minutes, misjudging Mason Mount's free kick, gifting Jorginho the easiest of tap-ins.

Arteta could have done with Pawson doing his job, and showing Jorginho a second yellow, for a challenge on Alexandre Lacazette, who did not help his side's cause by pleading for punishment.

Arsenal were open, and when Antonio Rüdiger headed clear, Willian and Abraham whisked the ball 90 yards before the England forward exposed Mustafi's ability to challenge air rather than the ball. It was all over bar the singing of Lampard's praises.

Match briefing

13 minutes

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang peels off Emerson and flicks his header home from Mesut Özil's corner. The striker scores his 13th league goal, half of the team's tally this season.

34

Chelsea are rattled and Lampard has seen enough as well as three players booked for rash tackles. Jorginho replaces Emerson and he switches system from 3-4-3 to 4-3-3. Chelsea get a foothold in the game.

75

The Emirates Stadium is a more harmonious place. Mesut Özil feels the love from the home fans and soaks up the applause as he is replaced.

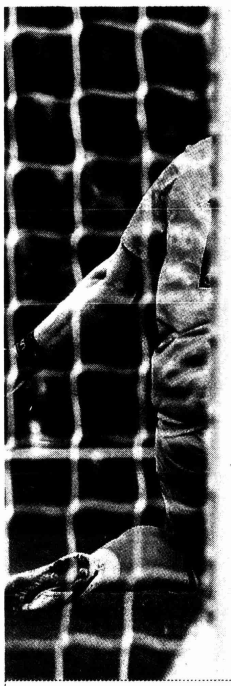
76

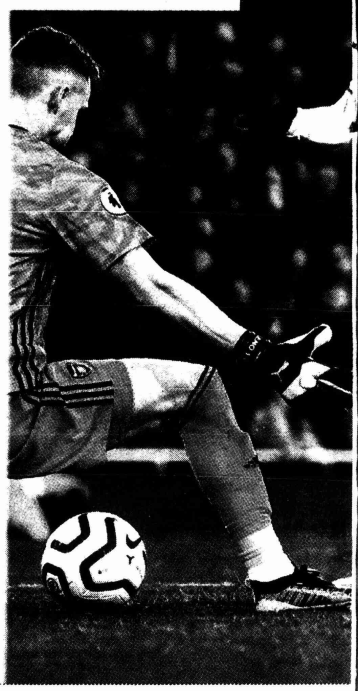
KEY MOMENT

Jorginho is on a yellow card and tugs Mattéo Guendouzi. Arsenal want a red card and instead Craig Pawson books Alexandre Lacazette for dissent.

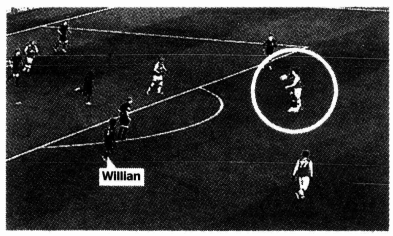
83

Bernd Leno misjudges his attempted punch at a free kick and Jorginho levels with a tap-in. Four minutes later Arsenal lose their shape, allowing Tammy Abraham and Willian to sprint clear before Abraham scores.





FROM AN ARSENAL ATTACK TO CHELSEA WINNER IN JUST 13 SECONDS



Lampard:

GARY JACOB

Frank Lampard admitted that his Chelsea side enjoyed a slice of luck when Jorginho escaped a second yellow card before going on to play a starring role in their comeback win.

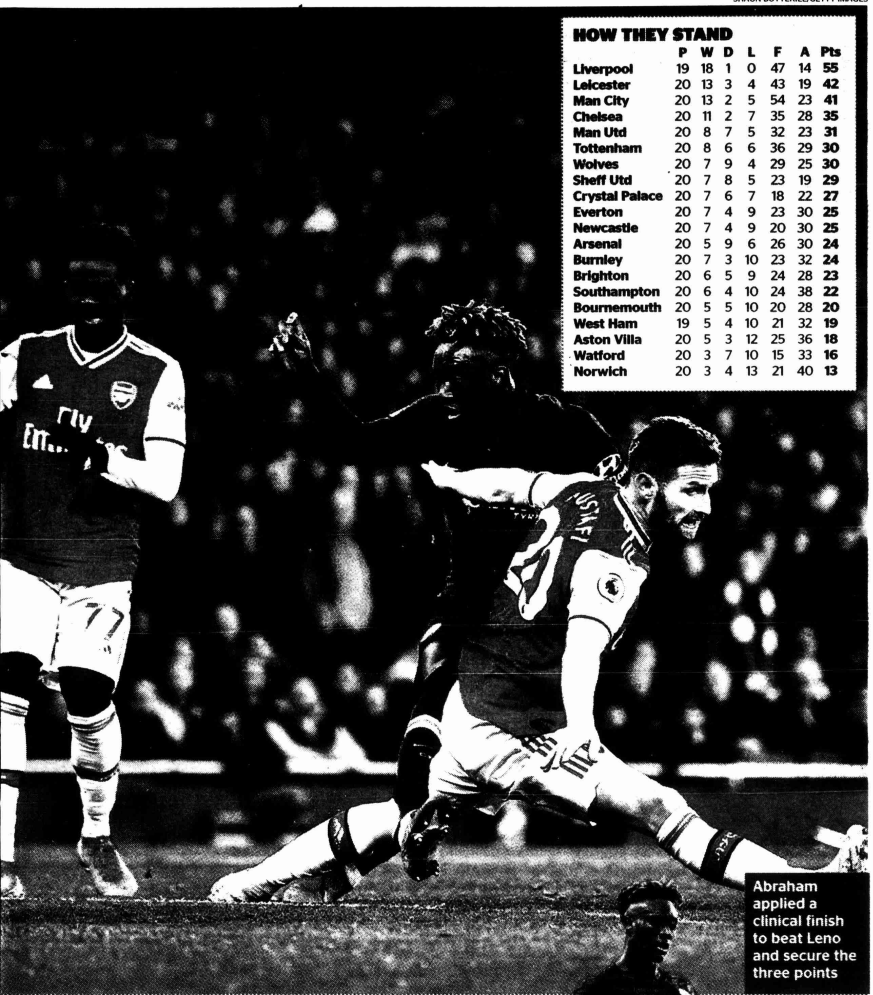
The Italy midfielder, 28, who scored the first goal and set up the winner to earn a 2-1 victory, was shown a yellow card for pulling back Alexandre Lacazette after the restart and did the same to Mattéo Guendouzi with 15 minutes remaining, leaving Lampard to fear the worst.

"It certainly could have been a second yellow," he said. "Maybe we got a slice of luck. Jorginho was a big catalyst for the change — the fact he was winning second balls and showing that kind of character. I don't think we can get to where we want to get to without aggression."

SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

HOW THEY STAND

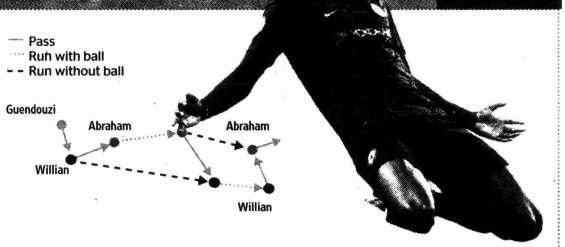
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	19	18	1	0	47	14	55
Leicester	20	13	3	4	43	19	42
Man City	20	13	2	5	54	23	41
Chelsea	20	11	2	7	35	28	35
Man Utd	20	8	7	5	32	23	31
Tottenham	20	8	6	6	36	29	30
Wolves	20	7	9	4	29	25	30
Sheff Utd	20	7	8	5	23	19	29
Crystal Palace	20	7	6	7	18	22	27
Everton	20	7	4	9	23	30	25
Newcastle	20	7	4	9	20	30	25
Arsenal	20	5	9	6	26	30	24
Burnley	20	7	3	10	23	32	24
Brighton	20	6	5	9	24	28	23
Southampton	20	6	4	10	24	38	22
Bournemouth	20	5	5	10	20	28	20
West Ham	19	5	4	10	21	32	19
Aston Villa	20	5	3	12	25	36	18
Watford	20	3	7	10	15	33	16
Norwich	20	3	4	13	21	40	13



Abraham applied a clinical finish to beat Leno and secure the three points

Willian and Tammy Abraham combined to snatch a late breakaway winner for Chelsea just 13 seconds after Arsenal had been putting pressure on the away side's goal.

After pouncing on a loose clearance from Mattéo Guendouzi, left, Willian surged up the pitch. As our graphic, right, shows, he exchanged passes with Abraham before cutting back for the forward who spun and fired a shot through the legs of goalkeeper Bernd Leno.



Jorginho lucky to stay on pitch

Mikel Arteta felt that the Jorginho foul was "very clear" but stopped short of saying he should have been dismissed. He was more disappointed that his Arsenal players lost their heads twice in four minutes and conceded each time. He felt they struggled to maintain their level of aggression and intensity.

"We had to sustain that for longer periods against a very physical team like Chelsea," Arteta, the Arsenal head coach, said. "We are asking them to play a different pace, be much more aggressive and at the moment they suffer. I am really disappointed with the result, the timing and way we conceded the goals. We are responsible for the decisions we did not get right. The other things [officials] we cannot control. I am pleased that a lot of things that we trained [for] happened in the game and how the players buy into this."

Arteta also claimed that Granit Xhaka has been in bed for two days with a temperature and that he does not want the midfielder to leave for Hertha Berlin in the transfer window. Arteta also fears that Calum Chambers has suffered a knee problem that could sideline him.

Trailing 1-0, Lampard and his side exchanged some stern words during the interval that brought an impressive reaction as Chelsea sparked into life in the second half. The head coach described his team as "awful" when they trailed 1-0 and he was forced to bring on Jorginho and change formation after 34 minutes. Lampard said that he did not mince his words and encouraged his players to also be vocal in the dressing room. "You can accept a miss-pass but you can't accept lethargy in a London derby," Lampard said. "The players were told and they delivered. Then the lads started talking and it was a bit aggressive, which is a good thing. You don't want 11 quiet players who just want to trot out again. I was pretty firm because you can't just come here and think you're going to get anything. It was more, 'can we show something here?' We have to, we're Chelsea — we can't just roll up and not feel like the 3,000 fans who have travelled to watch."

Jorginho was already on a yellow card when he tackled Guendouzi

TONY CASCARINO

Weekend talking points

Hungry and tireless, this was not the old Arsenal

They may have lost thanks to a couple of sloppy errors but this defeat by Chelsea was far from "same old Arsenal".

We saw it with David De Gea for Manchester United at Watford before Christmas and again yesterday with Bernd Leno: all the coaching in the world can be undone by your goalkeeper flapping and gifting a goal to your opponents.

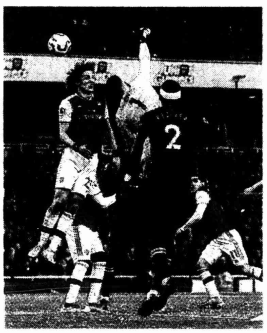
Mikel Arteta can still take plenty of positives from his team's performance. Their workrate has improved considerably in the two games since he took over.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang looked far hungrier. I have criticised him in recent weeks for his poor attitude but he and Reiss Nelson were tireless in their running down each wing. Bukayo Saka, an 18-year-old winger, excelled at left back and Ainsley Maitland-Niles on the right proved he can fit into this system.

The challenge for Arteta is to get Aubameyang, Alexandre Lacazette and Mesut Özil working as a well-oiled attacking unit. I am yet to be convinced that the three players can work together.

When Cristiano Ronaldo, Carlos Tévez and Wayne Rooney were terrorising defences for Manchester United at the start of this decade, it was not just their talent that made them a lethal attacking force.

They did not stop running and, out of possession, made sure they were United's first line of defence. The Arsenal front three could do worse than watch videos of that formidable trio. Arteta has upped the players' work-ethic — now they need to play this way consistently.



Leno fails to make contact with a cross and gifts Chelsea an equaliser

Williams is not fazed by the pressure at United

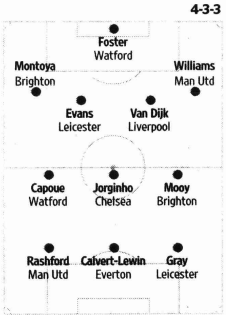
When I watch Brandon Williams, Manchester United's 19-year-old left back, I see a player who has the swagger to succeed at that club. Wearing the United shirt is not daunting for this young man.

At Turf Moor he was demanding to be given the ball and played with composure throughout.

Williams' performance was so assured that United did not miss Luke Shaw at full back. Much has been made of the displays of Victor Lindelof and Harry Maguire in securing United's first clean sheet since September but Williams deserves just as much credit.

TEAM OF THE WEEK

4-3-3



When to dive or not to dive, that is the question

I do not like to see players diving to win penalties but I had some sympathy with Steve Bruce when the Newcastle manager argued that Miguel Almirón should have gone to ground in the box when challenged by Everton's Michael Keane on Saturday.

If most players are going down under contact in the penalty area, why should Newcastle be missing out on the opportunity to win a penalty?

Contrast Almirón with Troy Deeney who played on when Aston Villa's Matt Targett was down injured, raced into the box and was fouled for a penalty. Deeney said afterwards that why should Watford, who are in a relegation fight and scrapping for every point, stop play? I happen to agree.

A goal would be just the ticket for Solanke

Just over two years ago, Dominic Solanke and Dominic Calvert-Lewin lined up together in the England team which won the Under-20 World Cup. At the time, both were hailed as promising young forwards with bright futures.

While Calvert-Lewin's career continues to go from strength to strength — his brace on Saturday against Newcastle took his Everton goal tally to ten in all competitions this season — Solanke's has stalled.

He has scored just once in 48 Premier League appearances and is yet to find the net since his £19 million move from Liverpool to Bournemouth in 2019.

Solanke is not playing badly — his all-round game is good — but in front of goal he does not look likely to score.

Lampard learning from mistakes

Chelsea boss shows his Arsenal counterpart value of a clear mind, writes **Matt Dickinson**

It is not policemen getting younger these days, it is football managers. Or at least it can feel that way to those of us who still instinctively think of Frank Lampard versus Mikel Arteta as a tussle of midfield credentials, not tactical brains.

Wasn't it only five minutes ago that they were playing — Arteta, 37, still looks easily slim enough — but now they find themselves at the wheels of two of the biggest clubs in the world, eighth versus ninth on revenues according to Deloitte, as learner drivers.

No wonder Lampard talked afterwards about the risk of becoming "a bag of nerves if you are constantly questioning yourself" given the scale of responsibility — and he, at 41 and with a season at Derby County and half a top-flight campaign at Chelsea, is the relatively experienced hand at this intense job with its hundreds of decisions every day.

With all Chelsea's inconsistencies — and we saw them be both horribly flat and triumphantly determined in one afternoon — it has not been a straightforward few weeks for Lampard but what did anyone expect?

This being modern football, we want managers to reveal their abilities immediately but the daftness of that impatience could be shown on a day such as this when Lampard talked openly about still getting to grips with his players, in attitude and tactical approach — and understanding how to stay calm himself through such fluctuations.

In a world of so many voices in his ear telling him to do this tactic, pick that player, buy this striker or that, he talked of the need to keep a clear mind and to make firm decisions. Here was an afternoon to show that, while he will make mistakes, he is showing signs of learning well on the job.

Of course it is never a great look when a manager has to change formations early in matches because his team are suffering.

On Boxing Day, the alteration came at half-time in defeat to Southampton; here even sooner as Arsenal's initial frenzy threatened to overwhelm Chelsea.

Lampard initially denied that he had got his tactics wrong, saying that it was more about mindset. It turned out to be a bit of both.

With Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Reiss Nelson so energetic on each flank, Chelsea's 3-4-3 had become an unhappy back five. It was one effect of a flatness in contrast to an Arsenal side so eager to impress in Arteta's first home game in charge.

"We were so awful for 30 minutes, slow lethargic, nervous," Lampard noted. Tactics that had worked so effectively against Tottenham Hotspur did not have a chance, he said, with that attitude.

Perhaps we could see the influence of José Mourinho in the way that Lampard did not wait until the interval but brought off Emerson after a poor 35 minutes in which he had, critically, lost Aubameyang at a corner.

"To say I was decisive, I could have done it after ten minutes, that's not just Emerson," he said. "It's hard to convey a message with your voice on the side in this sort of atmosphere. Sometimes it has to be a gesture."

In this case, a significant shake-up. With Jorginho's arrival forcing several changes of position, a flat performance produced greater possession, twice as many shots and, of course, the three points thanks to two late goals.

It took a terrible blunder by Bernd Leno to give Chelsea the breakthrough, and there was luck too given that Jorginho avoided a second caution for a blatant pull.

But it was Chelsea who improved showing the aggression that Lampard had helped to inspire through his changes.

Among them was the bold introduction of Tariq Lamptey for his league debut at right back, another talent from the academy trusted by his manager. With extraordinary pace, a low centre of gravity and no lack of belief judging from some bold runs forward, the 19-year-old immediately impressed.

"My question to Jody [Morris] when he came on was, 'Has he got the confidence and personality to deal with this?' It was a tough game to come in and try to turn it, and Jody was like, 'Yeah, no problem.'

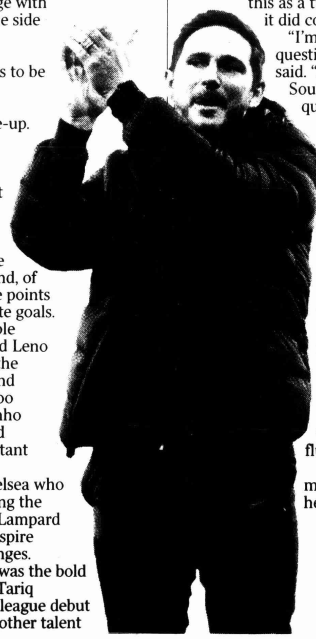
"When he drove inside and slipped Tammy [Abraham] in, I thought it was a great example of someone coming on a bit fearless. Sometimes you get that with youth."

There have been too many ups and downs — victories at Spurs and Arsenal mixed in with toothless defeats at home to Southampton and Bournemouth — for Lampard to hail this as a turning point. But it did count as progress.

"I'm always questioning myself," he said. "After Southampton I questioned about going three at the back again, I questioned the personnel, I questioned could I have made a difference?"

So many questions, he said, that he is having to teach himself to move quicker from one game to another "otherwise it's not good for your health and that's why I'm feeling fluey".

For Arteta, the managerial headaches begin.



Lampard showed characteristics of Mourinho by soon replacing Emerson after his side's awful start

EXIT LOOMS FOR GIROUD AMID JUVENTUS INTEREST

Olivier Giroud could be reunited with his former Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri at Juventus and also has interest from Inter Milan and Lyons (Gary Jacob writes). The forward is expected to leave Chelsea after the transfer window opens on Wednesday having started just two of his five league games this season.

The 33-year-old has scored 19 goals in 70 appearances for the west London club but has been warned that he needs to play regularly by Didier Deschamps, the France head coach, before Euro 2020. Bordeaux have expressed an interest but do not believe they can afford him.

He joined Chelsea in January 2018 and extended his contract for another year in May. The club took the decision in part as a precaution because they thought they might receive a Fifa transfer ban in the summer, which they did.

Frank Lampard then took over as head coach from Sarri and he has preferred to use Tammy Abraham as his main striker. The 22-year-old took his tally for the season to 14 in yesterday's 2-1 win at Arsenal.

Gillette
LESS RAZOR BUMPS FROM SHAVING OR YOUR MONEY BACK*
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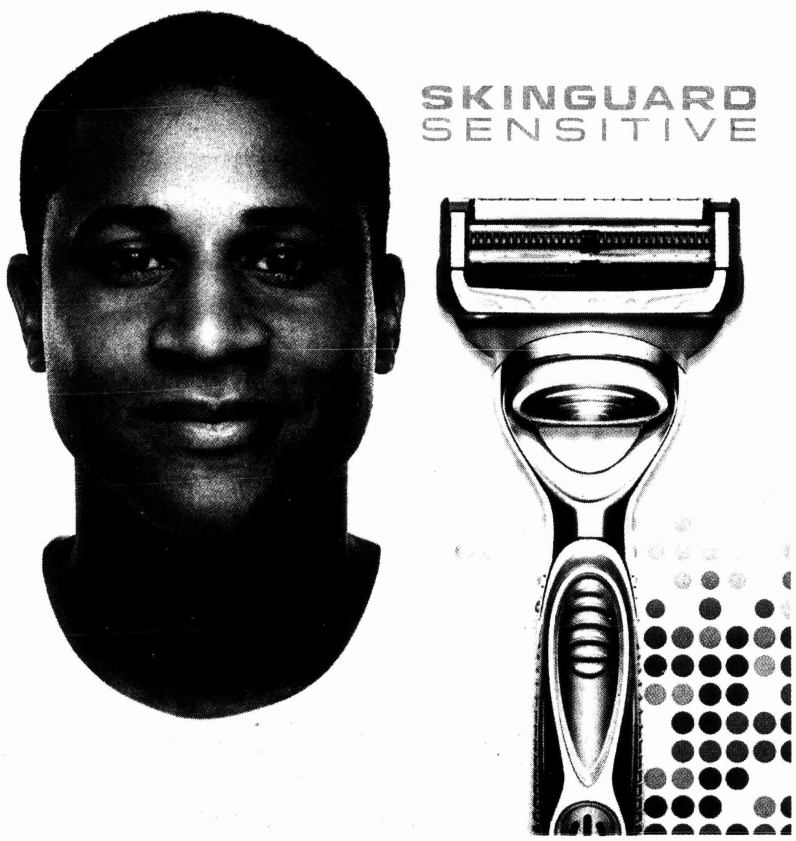
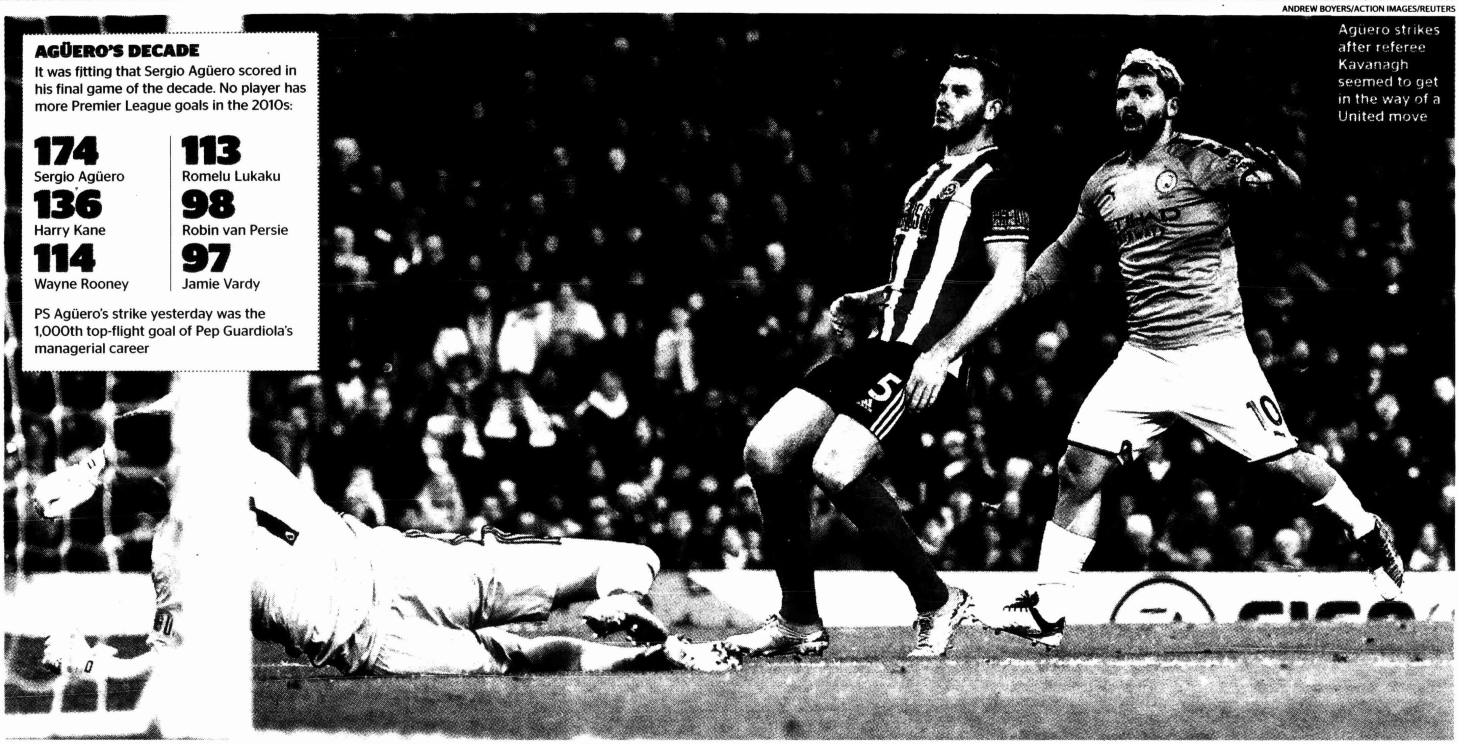


ANDREW BOYERS/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS



Agüero strikes after referee Kavanagh seemed to get in the way of a United move

AGÜERO'S DECADE

It was fitting that Sergio Agüero scored in his final game of the decade. No player has more Premier League goals in the 2010s:

174 Sergio Agüero	**113** Romelu Lukaku
136 Harry Kane	**98** Robin van Persie
114 Wayne Rooney	**97** Jamie Vardy

PS Agüero's strike yesterday was the 1,000th top-flight goal of Pep Guardiola's managerial career

Wilder fury at VAR call and referee's assist in City opener

Manchester City	Sheffield United
2	0

Agüero 52, De Bruyne 82

POSSESSION	
73%	27%
SHOTS ON TARGET	
4	0
FOULS	
5	6

RATINGS

Manchester City (4-3-3): C Bravo 6 — K Walker 6, E García 7, Fernandinho 6, O Zinchenko 6 — K De Bruyne 8, Rodri 7, B Silva 6 (I Gündogan 62min, 6) — R Mahrez 7, S Agüero 7 (P Foden 81), R Sterling 6 (sub: G Jesus 88). **Subs not used** S Carson, B Mendy, J Cancelo, N Otamendi. **Booked** B Silva.

Sheffield United (3-3-2-2): D Henderson 7 — C Basham 6, J Egan 7, J O'Connell 6 — G Baldock 7, O Norwood 7, E Stevens 7 — M Besic 6 (O McBurnie 75), J Fleck 7 — L Mousset 6 (B Sharp 83), C Robinson 6 (D McGoldrick 59, 6). **Subs not used** M Verrips, L Freeman, P Jagielka, B Osborn. **Booked** Stevens.

Referee C Kavanagh.

PAUL HIRST

Chris Wilder could not have chosen two more forthright words to sum up his feelings towards the officials after the opening goal in his team's narrow defeat to Manchester City.

"F***ing joke" he yelled three or four times in a row on the touchline towards John Brooks, the fourth official, just after Sergio Agüero put City ahead against the run of play. The Sheffield United manager, had every right to feel aggrieved. For the majority of this match, his team, promoted from the second tier in the summer, made the champions of England look fallible, their reshuffled and diminutive back line appear weak, and yet his side came away from the Etihad Stadium with their first away defeat of the season. Pep Guardiola secured his 100th Premier League win thanks to two factors, the first being a fortuitous helping hand from Chris Kavanagh, the referee, and the second the imperious form of Kevin De Bruyne.

Wilder's gripe with Kavanagh was understandable. In the 52nd minute, Kavanagh accidentally prevented John Fleck from collecting Oliver Norwood's pass on the edge of the United box. It was unclear whether Kavanagh touched the ball or Fleck did, but he was positioned in a way to prevent the United player from collecting the ball and moving upfield and it bounced free. De Bruyne gladly collected possession, fed Agüero and he did the rest, leaving Wilder still fuming after the match. "It changed the game. Under the new rule, if the referee touches the ball, he has to blow up, so surely if he is in the way and hinders us then he makes a sensible decision," Wilder said.

"If he made the sensible decision then no one in the ground would have said anything about it."

Wilder's anger was amplified by an earlier decision to chalk off a Lys Mousset "goal" for the closest of offside calls after a VAR review.

"There's no conclusive evidence, just blurred lines and angles," Wilder said. "There needs to be a more clear way of defining it."

Guardiola benefited from both decisions, but he echoed his opposite number's sentiments with regard to the VAR system. "I have a huge list for VAR," Guardiola said. "Every weekend is a big mess. In other games it was a big mess. Hopefully next season it can do better."

Regardless of the controversial officiating, this was a close call for City.

Watching this match, it was easy to conclude that despite Guardiola's claims to the contrary, City need reinforcements in central defence and at full back. Their lack of height in the middle, where Eric Garcia and Fernandinho started, left them vulnerable while Oleksandr Zinchenko and Kyle Walker looked rusty. In fairness to City, losing to Wolverhampton Wanderers 48 hours earlier did not help their cause. "Rodri was exhausted," Guardiola said of his midfielder. "It's a credit to him that he played today."

For the opening 20 minutes, United controlled the game. Flicks, tricks, passes, crosses, They had the lot. The only player in blue who possessed the drive and energy to drag City out of their slumber was De Bruyne, although he was made to look human by Norwood, who turned the Belgian playmaker to the cries of "olé" from the away end.

United should have taken an early lead. Callum Robinson crossed to Mousset, who beat Zinchenko to the ball but headed wide from six yards.

City's angst grew. Rodri shouted at Walker for failing to collect a short and simple pass. Guardiola intervened, telling his midfielder to lay off the right back.

Finally a moment of quality arrived. Rodri paused and played Riyad Mahrez through. The forward turned Enda Stevens but John Egan diverted the shot into the side-netting

It did not take much for United to expose City's weaknesses in defence. City lacked confidence and it came as no surprise when Wilder's team found the net.

Fleck cut open the City defence with a peach of a 50-yard pass. Mousset finished, Wilder celebrated, Guardiola fumed. "It's a foul," the Catalan yelled towards Sian Massey-Ellis, the fourth official. Then it was Wilder's turn to fume after Kavanagh chalked off the goal after Stockley Park ruled that Mousset was offside.

Mousset had another chance to put United ahead just before the break. This time, he was not in an offside position as he raced on to Norwood's jaw-dropping through-ball, but he found the side-netting.

City improved at the start of the second half, but they still required fortune to take the lead.

Norwood attempted to play the ball to Fleck, but Kavanagh got in the way. De Bruyne capitalised and played the ball to Agüero, who beat Dean Henderson. Red and white shirts surrounded the referee as the incident was reviewed but the goal stood. Mousset got in behind Fernandinho and García again, but once more he failed to test Claudio Bravo. City needed a second and it came with eight minutes left. Mahrez held off Norwood's challenge and returned the ball to De Bruyne, who charged forward, cut inside Egan and beat Henderson. Guardiola was ecstatic.

Billy Sharp thought he had grabbed a late consolation when he headed a Stevens cross towards goal, but it hit the post and rolled across the line before Bravo gratefully collected it.

Match briefing

8 mins Sheffield United should take the lead. Callum Robinson crosses for Lys Mousset, but he heads wide from six yards.

17 Rodri plays in Riyad Mahrez, who turns his marker, but his shot is deflected into the side-netting.

29 Mousset beats Claudio Bravo this time but his goal is ruled out after he is ruled offside from John Fleck's pass.

52 **KEY MOMENT** City finally take the lead through Agüero. Chris Kavanagh gets in the way of Norwood's pass and it falls to De Bruyne, who tees up Agüero

82 City end any hopes of a United comeback when De Bruyne, left, exchanges passes with Mahrez before beating Dean Henderson.

thegame

Klopp's weary but relentless side march on

Liverpool	Wolves
1	0
Mané 42	

	Liverpool	Wolves
POSSESSION	63%	37%
SHOTS ON TARGET	3	2
FOULS	7	3

RATINGS

Liverpool (4-3-3): A Becker 7 — T Alexander-Arnold 7, J Gomez 8, V van Dijk 7, A Robertson 7 — A Lallana 7 (N Keïta 67min, 6), J Henderson 7, G Wijnaldum 7 (J Milner 86) — R Firmino 6 (D Origi 86), M Salah 6, S Mané 7. **Subs not used** Adrian, N Williams, H Elliott, C Jones. **Booked** Lallana.

Wolverhampton Wanderers (3-5-2): R Patrício 6 — R Bennett 7, C Coady 7, M Kilman 7 — Jonny 7, L Dendoncker 6 (A Traoré 58, 6), R Neves 7 (R Saïss 58, 6), J Moutinho 7, R Vinagre 7 — D Jota 7 (R Jiménez 72), P Neto 7. **Subs not used** J Ruddy, M Doherty, O Burr, O Otasowie.
Referee A Taylor

PAUL JOYCE
Northern Football Correspondent

As Adama Traoré bulldozed his way across the edge of Liverpool's penalty area looking for an opportunity to unleash a shot, it was Virgil van Dijk who stretched out a leg to make the crucial block.

From the corner, it was the defender who also ensured he rose highest to head away João Moutinho's set piece and with that Wolverhampton Wanderers' hopes of gaining any reward from this game were extinguished. Liverpool ended 2019 in the same manner they will seek to approach 2020: unmoved and unwavering in their pursuit of success.

This was the sort of leggy, disjointed performance against skilled rivals that may have been expected given the hosts' recent globetrotting schedule and that Jürgen Klopp, the Liverpool manager, could still savour victory spoke volumes for his squad's rounded qualities. The lead at the top of the table has been stretched to 13 points.

The decisive goal came in the opening half, via Adam Lallana's shoulder and then Sadio Mané's right boot, with VAR overturning the original decision to disallow it. Soon after, much to Wolves' frustration, VAR rejected the visitors' claims of an equaliser in first-half stoppage time.

Yet, amid more furore, the bottom line is that Liverpool are now unbeaten in 50 league games at Anfield. They have claimed 98 points from 37 Premier League matches in a calendar year.

Weaknesses are in short supply, although Wolves came closer than many in exposing them with a performance that belied the fact they had only 42 hours' recovery since their eye-catching victory over Manchester City on Friday night.

That will, however, be of little consolation to Nuno Espírito Santo, the Wolves head coach, who cut an exasperated figure and was left complaining that football had lost a little more of its soul and sanity by the end of proceedings.

The nip and tuck, which had featured Mohamed Salah spurning an early opportunity, eventually gave way to the breakthrough before the interval. Van Dijk spotted Lallana's run from right to left, away from Ruben Vinagre and in between Max Kilman and Conor Coady, with the midfielder skilfully cushioning the ball into the path of Mané.

The Senegal forward finished the chance beyond Wolves goalkeeper Rui Patrício from close range. Anthony Taylor, the referee, had deemed Lallana to have used the top of his arm in controlling the pass but, after a review and another interminable delay, the decision was overturned.

It was the right outcome, and Lallana's first assist for two years and 363 days since he was involved in a 1-0 victory over Manchester City should have been one of the main talking points. Instead the focus fell on the VAR hub in Stockley Park, west London, with Nuno ripping off his gloves and unzipping his coat, incandescent with rage that Mané's 14th goal of the campaign had been allowed to stand.

To compound matters further some of the Wolves players believed that Van Dijk had handled the ball at the start of the move although replays suggested the ball had struck the defender's chest.

Taylor found himself surrounded by a posse of disgruntled Wolves players, a scene that would be repeated soon after as the raucous celebrations of Pedro Neto were rendered meaningless by another video check.

He had tucked home a cross from Jonny that had been diverted into his path by Roberto Firmino's toe only for the review to show the wing back's foot to be offside when receiving Moutinho's pass and rolling Liverpool's left back Andy Robertson.

"F*** VAR," sang the visiting supporters. It serves as a compliment to Wolves that their ability to make life uncomfortable for the league leaders came with Traoré and Raúl Jiménez named on the bench.

They have become a template for how the vast majority of other top-

Match briefing

4 minutes

A slick Liverpool move involving Sadio Mané, Adam Lallana and Trent Alexander-Arnold ends with Mohamed Salah flicking his effort over the Wolves crossbar.

42

Virgil van Dijk's raking pass finds Lallana, who controls the ball with his shoulder and tees up Mané. Referee Anthony Taylor disallows the effort, but the goal is awarded after a review by VAR to give Liverpool a 1-0 lead.

45

Jonny rolls Andy Robertson and delivers a cross that is dispatched by Pedro Neto only for Wolves' celebrations to be cut short. VAR rules that Jonny's foot was offside when he received a pass from João Moutinho.

67

KEY MOMENT

Diogo Jota steals possession from Virgil van Dijk and moves into the area but the Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson repels his effort on goal.

The expert view

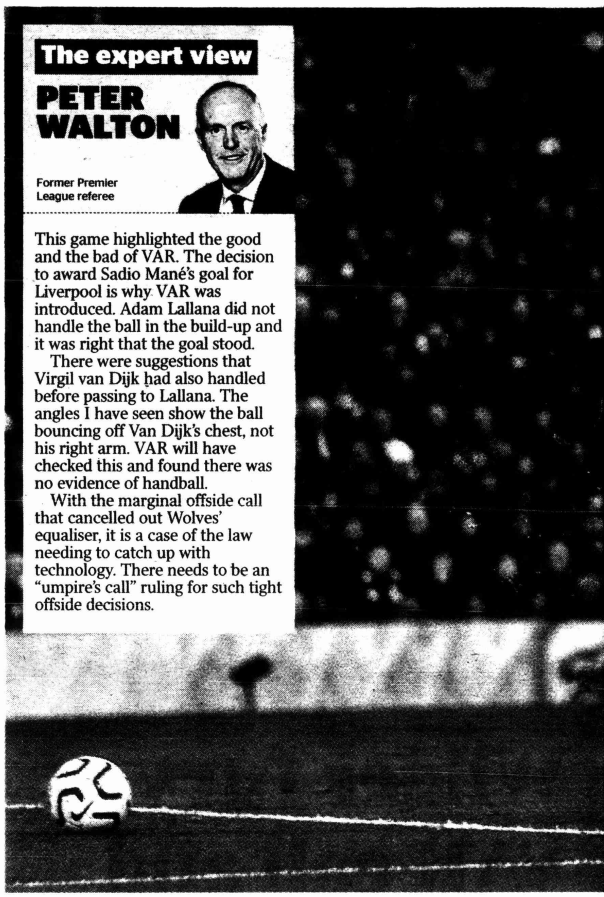
PETER WALTON

Former Premier League referee

This game highlighted the good and the bad of VAR. The decision to award Sadio Mané's goal for Liverpool is why VAR was introduced. Adam Lallana did not handle the ball in the build-up and it was right that the goal stood.

There were suggestions that Virgil van Dijk had also handled before passing to Lallana. The angles I have seen show the ball bouncing off Van Dijk's chest, not his right arm. VAR will have checked this and found there was no evidence of handball.

With the marginal offside call that cancelled out Wolves' equaliser, it is a case of the law needing to catch up with technology. There needs to be an "umpire's call" ruling for such tight offside decisions.



Ancelotti: Calvert-Lewin was on my radar when I was

MARTIN HARDY

Carlo Ancelotti has revealed that Napoli were monitoring the progress of Dominic Calvert-Lewin during his time in charge of one of the best clubs in Europe.

The Everton forward was not exactly short on compliments on Saturday evening, after a fine, match-winning display, but that probably felt the most important.

"He was a player we followed as a young striker," Ancelotti, 60, said. "But there was no possibility [to buy him]. He excites me. There are a lot of people who have eyes on him.

"He's young, he needs to improve and be focused, and I think he will be because he's humble guy. He is a powerful player. You see what he did for the second goal, it was a really powerful sprint."

A goal in each half took Calvert-Lewin's tally to five in five league outings, or three in the two games Ancelotti has been in charge for. There is an aura and a calmness to Ancelotti and to witness the alteration to his team's shape in the second half, after Newcastle's best spell, was impressive.

Key to that was Calvert-Lewin and in his success was a reminder that there is still much to be said for shopping wisely. The 22-year-old was signed for £1.5 million from Sheffield United in 2016 and was the pauper who became a prince at St James' Park. Beside him was the £27 million Moise Kean. On the bench for the visitors, the £27 million Cenk Tosun. Newcastle had £60 million worth of forwards in Joelinton and Miguel Almirón in their starting XI and the pair have managed a solitary goal each since arriving in England. Those kinds of records generally create relegation battles.

Signing youth does mean success generally takes longer, but among Everton's best players, alongside Calvert-Lewin, was Mason Holgate, just 23 and signed from Barnsley in 2015, and the 25-year-old Jordan Pickford who moved from Sunderland in 2017.

Last season in the corresponding fixture he bit endlessly at the goading

Match briefing

Newcastle Utd	Everton
1	2

Everton's work rate and greater quality separated sides who combined for 42 attempts on goal, the season's third highest in the Premier League. Everton have goals with Dominic Calvert-Lewin adding goals to his excellent all-round performance. Newcastle's forwards — Joelinton, Miguel Almirón and Andy Carroll struggled in front of goal.

Key moment

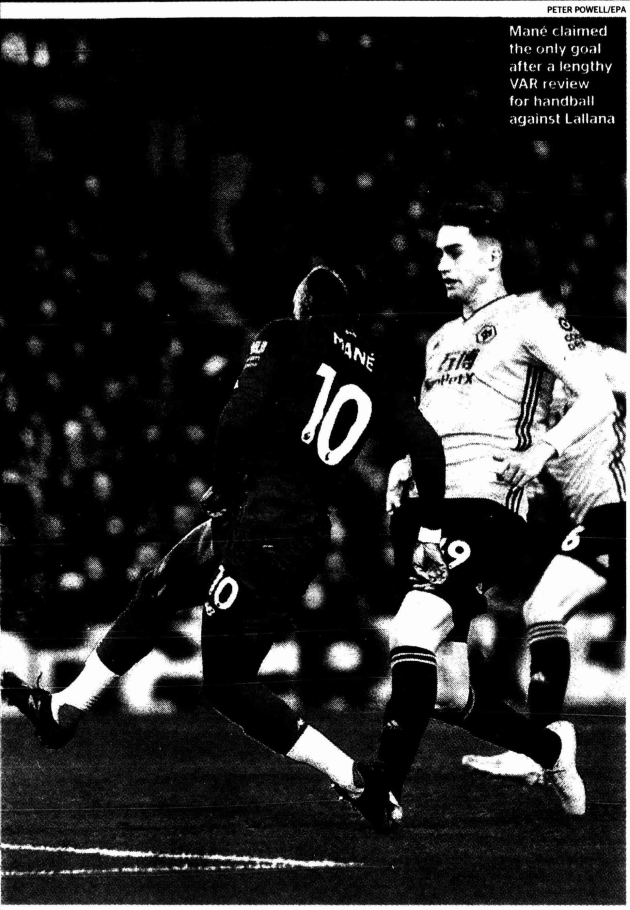
Newcastle, encouraged by their supporters, went for a high press in the 63rd minute, but when Carroll lost the ball on the halfway line, there were gaps and the pace of Everton saw Richarlison and Calvert-Lewin combine for the winning goal.

RATINGS

Newcastle (5-3-2): M Dubravka 8 — D Yedlin 7, F Schär 7, F Fernández 6, F Lejeune 5 (sub: C Atsu 74min), J Willems 7 (S Longstaff 85) — I Hayden 6, M Almirón 7, J Shelvey 6 — A Carroll 7, Joelinton 6 (D Gayle 74).
Subs not used K Darlow, E Krafth, J Manquillo, M Longstaff.
Booked Hayden, Joelinton.

Everton (4-4-2): J Pickford 7 — D Sidibé 6, M Keane 7, M Holgate 8, L Baines 7 (Y Mina 80) — T Walcott 6 (S Coleman 70, 5), G Sigurdsson 6, T Davies 7, Richarlison 8 — M Kean 6 (F Delph 61, 6), D Calvert-Lewin 8. **Subs not used** M Stekelenburg, L Digne, C Tosun, Bernard.
Booked Davies, Calvert-Lewin.
Referee L Mason.

PETER POWELL/EPA



Mané claimed the only goal after a lengthy VAR review for handball against Lallana

flight clubs would like to operate in terms of shrewd buys and possessing a coach who can solve problems.

Belief in their methods did not waver despite a start to the campaign that yielded only two victories in the first 11 matches. The ability to sail through choppy waters reflects well on Nuno. Little wonder the away supporters serenaded him as "the Special One".

Later, with Liverpool still struggling to create clear-cut chances and unable to recycle possession, he sent on the jet-heeled Traoré and also Jiménez in a refusal to take a backward step.

In between, Diogo Jota had dispossessed Van Dijk when he was a little too casual in stepping out of defence, broke into the penalty area and forced Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson to push away a fierce shot.

Chances continued to fall to Wolves. Moutinho and Romain Saïss blazed wildly over the crossbar from the edge of the area and Vinagre shot wide with an ambitious attempt at the near post.

But the league leaders emerged unscathed from the pressure and such is their advantage at the top of the table that they now have a large margin for error over the forthcoming months.

They will, of course, not recognise that fact and with Joe Gomez outstanding at the heart of the defence once more it is revealing that they have now kept four successive clean sheets in the league for the first time since March.

The final game of the decade naturally prompts revision, but for Liverpool there remains so much to look forward to.

VAR is not working, says Coady

PAUL JOYCE

The Wolves captain Conor Coady delivered a damning assessment of VAR by claiming it is fundamentally flawed after their defeat yesterday.

Checks at Stockley Park, the VAR headquarters in west London, overturned referee Anthony Taylor's decision to disallow Sadio Mané's 42nd-minute goal for handball by Adam Lallana and then ruled out Pedro Neto's strike, with team-mate Jonny ruled offside. "We feel hard done by. It is ridiculous," Coady, 26, whose side were on the receiving end of more VAR controversy in their win over Manchester City on Friday, said.

"For me it is not working. A lot of people say it has come to the right decision but what is it: an armpit or a toe [that was offside]? We're the players on the pitch and it doesn't feel right to me. It is confusing, I spoke to Anthony Taylor a lot today but he gave no clarification of what's going on. It is so tough to take, it has happened twice to us in the last two games against probably the best two sides in the world."

Nuno Espirito Santo, the Wolves head coach, said football was losing its spontaneity as a result of the games being micromanaged by VAR. "Anfield is amazing but they were celebrating a non-goal," he said. "It doesn't make sense. The VAR is miles away taking decisions on a lot of things happening here. Who is inside the game? Who feels the intensity and the flow? The referee here."

Jürgen Klopp, the Liverpool manager, insisted that the right decisions had been reached: "I was surprised when the whistle came for the handball. I thought it was a clear shoulder. But how can you be sure? So it took a while."

The former Liverpool midfielder Graeme Souness, a pundit on Sky Sports, said: "We cannot go on like this." He suggested an amendment to the laws. "Instead of going down the road where any part of the body the player can score a goal with is offside," he said, "we should change it to: if any part of the striker is onside, so his foot could be behind the line but most of his body is beyond it, we should allow the goal to stand."

Liverpool are to investigate claims that a ballboy was pushed by Wolves wing back Jonny as the defender sought to retrieve the ball.

Napoli manager – he excites me

of Newcastle fans and ended the day a loser. On Saturday he looked much more like the England goalkeeper than an angry Sunderland fan.

"I knew that last time I was here I let it all affect me," Pickford said. "That was a big learning curve for me and it's always been a tough place to play, especially for someone with my background. Today I just blocked the Newcastle fans out. I thought my mentality was top drawer. I could hear everything the fans said. Last season I took the bait, I was determined not to this time."

Maturity was a good point to make, something that has clearly added to the games of Calvert-Lewin and Holgate, who moved to left back from central defender late in the game.

RAPID IMPROVEMENT

Calvert-Lewin has already scored two more Premier League goals than in the whole of last season

	Games	Goals
2017-18	32	4
Mins per goal		469
2018-19	35	6
	296	
2019-20	18	8
	142	

Steve Bruce bemoaned decisions that went against his side — when Almirón burst through after 45 seconds and was impeded by Michael Keane and later when Keane headed over but a corner was given and two minutes later Calvert-Lewin scored his first. At the end Djibril Sidibé appeared to put a hand on Andy Carroll, who tumbled in the Everton penalty area.

It was 2-1 by then. Calvert-Lewin's second coming quickly after Fabian Schär's volley had levelled the scores. It is three defeats from four for Newcastle with only three goals scored in that run. Everton have won three and drawn two since Marco Silva was sacked. They have form, and a centre forward who can score goals.

WINTER'S WEEKEND WONDERS

Chief Football Writer on faceless VAR officials robbing stars of their glory

VAR cannot insist on absolutes in fluid sport

1 Teemu Pukki, Dan Burn, Max Meyer, Pedro Neto and Lys Mousset. Another weekend, another set of VAR victims. The footballing parks of this country need to reclaim the game from Stockley Park. The sport has to be about humans not robots, art more than science, not faceless officials staring into screens on a glorified industrial estate near Heathrow. The game has to be about Mousset putting Sheffield United in front against Manchester City, a Neto equaliser at Anfield, a Pukki strike, a Burn header and Meyer sweeping home Wilfried Zaha's cutback. It is almost as if the VAR officials are in full Grinch mode, sitting there, seeing how they can frustrate goalscorers, applying the most marginal offside decisions.

VAR cheerleaders proclaim HawkEye's accuracy, as if it could ever be completely definitive, but fall quiet on the original ethos underpinning the introduction of technology, focusing on "clear and obvious errors" by the referee and assistants, and the "minimum interference – maximum benefit". It's become maximum interference – minimum benefit. PGMOL's managing director, Mike Riley, actually undermines the case for technology by insisting on absolutes in a fluid sport. Riley and his VARs come across as a bunch of spoilsports, schoolmasters who never played the game nor felt the joy of match-going.

This pedantic (and inconsistent) application of VAR cannot be respected, or frankly continue to be tolerated, not when it takes so long for the officials to get their lines sorted on offside, not when it is so minuscule the debate is about armpits and thinness of shirts, not when the delay for a decision tempers celebration, not when athletes hang around waiting to learn their fate, not when anger builds among fans and not when the Premier League's carefully-cultivated global image of relentless drama is being so patently damaged.

A rethink is required, perhaps focusing on foot placement. Technology is required, especially for Hands of God but not armpits.

Calvert-Lewin should grow under Ancelotti

2 Dominic Calvert-Lewin. The Everton striker's new manager, Carlo Ancelotti, played with Marco van Basten at AC Milan and with Paolo Rossi for Italy. He coached Andriy Shevchenko at AC Milan, Didier Drogba at Chelsea and Robert Lewandowski at Bayern Munich, among many other leading lights. Ancelotti knows what makes forwards tick emotionally and tactically, the service they need from midfield, and Calvert-Lewin's education will now intensify further. The 22-year-old has responded to the faith placed in him by Duncan Ferguson, and is now scoring freely. If he continues developing under the pair, Calvert-Lewin will surely push for an England chance.

Rice's leadership an example to his team

3 Declan Rice. Anybody can come out of the dressing room and talk to the cameras after a good result. It takes somebody of substance to front up in defeat, as Rice did to *Match of the Day* after West Ham United's latest abomination of a performance (against Leicester City). Rice, captain at only 20, spoke of his pain at letting the fans down, of the need for more honesty in the dressing room, and pointed towards the team's issue with confidence. His pain was clear from his face. West Ham need more leaders like Rice.

FUNNY OLD GAME

Comedian George Lewis reflects on the week's action

It feels like there have been thousands of games since last Monday and plenty of managers have been moaning about the "punishing Christmas schedule". They would have you believe that, while the rest of you lucky people could enjoy time off with your families, footballers have been suffering. Well, I'm not buying it.

Pep Guardiola said "people do not care about the players". I must admit that when I was queueing for the tip on Boxing Day, bloated and hungover, with my son screaming his eyeballs out because I told him not to keep bashing a plastic robot against his sister's head, I did struggle to muster much sympathy for those lads out playing footy with their mates. So, yes, I suppose Pep's right.

But I'd argue that a normal person's Christmas schedule is much more punishing. He said players have no recovery time. Try being handed a buck's fizz at 6.30am after finishing Santa's whisky four hours earlier. They talk about endurance. Sitting through my uncle's divorce story (again), which spans more time than getting through an entire bottle of gin. That's endurance.

Even Jürgen Klopp has been unhappy about the schedule. Well, I'm not accepting any complaints from Liverpool. They could've taken Christmas off and still gone into the new year with a big lead. But no, they chose to play because it's a lot more fun than explaining Christmas jokes to their nanas.

Footballers must love Christmas — especially reserve goalkeepers. They get all the perks, with none of the work. They know they can indulge all they like because their day at "work" means watching a match from the best seats, cuddled up in a big coat with ample pocket space for mince pies and cheese. They are the happy fellas with gout. That's why I was so pleased Manchester City's Claudio Bravo had to come off the bench after Ederson was sent off against Wolves on Friday. He ran on to the pitch as though he was still digesting half a wheel of brie.

The best thing about being a footballer at Christmas is they have the perfect excuse: "I'm sorry, Aunty June, I'd love to hear more about your swollen ankles, but I've got to get off for training." I'd kill to have that up my sleeve.

Not only do they get to leave, but they get everyone's sympathy. There's nothing better than everyone feeling sorry for you because you've got to go to work, when what you're doing is actually nice. I can say this confidently as a man who had to leave a tense family gathering to come to a nice peaceful coffee shop and write about football.

So, footballers, I'm on to you. I know your game.

Moyes returns to san

ALYSON RUDD

David Moyes never wanted to leave West Ham United in the first place so will be familiar with the problems he will encounter on his return to the club. The Scot had his work cut out during his six-month stint but he managed to keep them up in 2018, and will be, presumably, not the least nonplussed by them.

HOME FORM

West Ham simply cannot get to grips with the cavernous London Stadium and have won fewer points at home, seven, than any other Premier League team this season. In his second league game in charge at home, the previous time he was brought in to save the day in November 2017, Moyes secured a 1-0 victory over Chelsea that, while critical in improving morale, did not spark a run of home wins.

Given that many fans will be underwhelmed by the Groundhog Day nature of Moyes's appointment there will be little in the way of a groundswell of optimism and passion from the stands to help the team to take ownership of the ground. Most of the time they seem to be swallowed up by its dimensions while opponents enjoy the space offered to them. Moyes, then, has to instil a love of the expanse. This is difficult when fighting at the bottom of the table as teams tend to become insular.

The 56-year-old Scot never quite got to grips with this dilemma last time but in his final game in charge, a 3-1 victory over Everton, his former club, was enough to prompt some strutting and a lap of honour where the supporters registered some affection for a team who finished 13th and looked to have learnt how to stamp their authority in east London.

In many respects Leicester City, on Saturday, offered the template for any visiting team to the London Stadium.

"When we go to away grounds we bring big energy," Hamza Choudhury, the Leicester midfielder, said, "so I feel like it's going to be tough for anybody to play against us when we are playing at that full force."

Brendan Rodgers, the Leicester manager, made nine changes to his team and yet, by being bold and busy, they were able to take control and not be the least bit intimidated.

MORALE

There is a personality vacuum at West Ham. As Manuel Pellegrini left the stadium, pulling along his suitcase behind him, he was the epitome of serenity, as if about to board a plane for a long holiday. The problem for West Ham has been that the Chilean has emanated such blandness throughout their difficulties. The players need animation and encouragement when struggling out on the pitch. Moyes is not the most charismatic of coaches but he should be able to bring more energy to the technical area. Moyes will also need Mark Noble to be more influential. The midfielder is 32 but has proved that he can still cover the pitch this season. More importantly he is synonymous with the club and a vocal captain.

UNDERPERFORMING PLAYERS

There are enough of them so Moyes stands a decent chance of improving the output of at least one. Last time he converted Marko Arnautovic from a winger to a central striker to stunning effect. The Austrian shifted from being perceived as a lazy attacker who would not track back to a forward with a lethal arrogance who became, briefly, a cult figure.

Moyes would love to be able to find the secret to unlocking the potential of Sébastien Haller, who has scored five goals in 19 appearances since joining West Ham from Eintracht Frankfurt for £45 million last summer. Against Leicester he again looked isolated whereas in his first few games he was highly adept as a target man, holding the ball up intelligently. The first setback for the striker was that his lay-offs required intuitive and bold running from his team-mates of which there was not enough. This seemed to dampen his enthusiasm.

Pellegrini took off Haller in the 55th minute and the crowd booed, partly because the 25-year-old had been so poor but also because they could sense that the answer was to allow him to play alongside Michail Antonio, his replacement. If Moyes can convince Haller himself that he should be the focal point, then he could prove as valuable as Arnautovic in staving off relegation.

LUKASZ FABIANSKI

West Ham were fourth in the table when their Polish goalkeeper was injured at the end of September. Although his return against Leicester was not enough to avoid defeat, the 34-year-old was the home side's best player, saving a penalty and making several fine blocks. The former Arsenal goalkeeper had bothered to study the spot-kick style of Demarai Gray, even though the Leicester winger is way down the pecking order of penalty takers for his team and was forced into action in the absence of Jamie Vardy and the fact James Maddison was on the bench. Moyes must keep Fabianski wrapped in cotton wool.

Match briefing

West Ham 1 — **Leicester 2**

In the ninth minute Kelechi Iheanacho, running on to Demarai Gray's pass, tumbled over the panicked Lukasz Fabianski and David Coote, the referee, awarded a penalty, taken by Gray that was saved by the West Ham goalkeeper. Just before half-time Leicester took the lead through Iheanacho's reaction header but West Ham equalised through Pablo Fornals after some nice link-up play between Ryan Fredericks and Felipe Anderson. The home team's defending for the Leicester winner was abysmal, however, as Ayoze Pérez ran through to release Gray.

Key moment

That a superb penalty save so soon after the moving tribute to Martin Peters simply failed to inspire the West Ham players was indicative of the lack of morale in the team.

RATINGS

West Ham United (4-2-3-1): L Fabianski 7 — R Fredericks 5, F Balbuena 4, I Diop 4, A Masuaka 5 — D Rice 5, C Sánchez 4 (R Snodgrass 62, 6) — P Fornals 7, M Lanzini 5 (A Ajeti 70, 5) F Anderson 6 — S Haller 5 (M Antonio 55, 5). **Subs not used** Roberto, W Reid, P Zabaleta, M Noble. **Booked** Fabianski, Rice, Diop, Masuaku.

Leicester City (4-2-3-1): K Schmeichel 6 — J Justin 6, W Morgan 6, J Evans 6, C Fuchs 6 — N Mendy 6 (W Ndidi 70, 5) H Choudhury 7 — D Gray (H Barnes 83), A Pérez (J Maddison 64, 6), M Albrighton 7 — K Iheanacho 7. **Subs not used** D Ward, B Chilwell, C Soyuncu, Y Tielemans. **Booked** Choudhury.

Referee D Coote.

Moyes inherits a team with low morale and a stadium that does not feel like home

Trust is big issue at a

MATT LAWTON
Chief Sports Correspondent

As David Moyes knows only too well, respect for managers among the owners and directors of football clubs is in increasingly short supply.

He was stunned when news of his dismissal at Manchester United was reported a day before being told by Ed Woodward, the club's executive vice-chairman, that his tenure was over. When much the same thing then happened at Real Sociedad — he was returning from a trip to England to celebrate his daughter's birthday when it was leaked that he was about to be fired — he was equally upset. "Even bad news has to be given with integrity," he said.

Not even the success he enjoyed at Everton seems to count for much now. Sources have suggested that he was offered the opportunity to return to Goodison Park this month. Indeed it is believed Farhad Moshiri had him flown to Munich so he could deliver the good news, only to change tack the moment he learnt of Carlo Ancelotti's departure from Napoli.

Moyes was not afforded much respect by West Ham United either when he left the club in May 2018. "We feel that it is right to move in a different direction," David Sullivan, the club's co-chairman, said when explaining why Moyes's six-month contract had not been extended. "We aim to appoint a high-calibre figure who we feel will lead the club into an exciting future."

ne old problems

JULIAN FINNEY/GETY IMAGES

HOW MOYES SAVED THEM IN 2018

Premier League bottom half When Moyes was appointed on November 7, 2017

		W	D	L	Pts
11	Newcastle	4	2	5	14
12	Leicester	3	4	4	13
13	Southampton	3	4	4	13
14	Stoke	3	5	5	12
15	Everton	3	2	6	11
16	West Brom	2	4	5	10
17	Bournemouth	3	3	7	10
18	**West Ham**	2	3	6	9
19	Swansea	2	2	7	8
20	Crystal Palace	1	1	9	4

At the end of 2017-18 season

		W	D	L	Pts
11	Crystal Palace	11	11	16	44
12	Bournemouth	11	11	16	44
13	**West Ham**	10	12	16	42
14	Watford	11	8	19	41
15	Brighton	9	13	16	40
16	Huddersfield	9	10	19	37
17	Southampton	7	15	16	36
18	Swansea	8	9	21	33
19	Stoke	7	12	19	33
20	West Brom	6	13	19	31

How he changed West Ham

Before Moyes		With Moyes
0.8	Points per game	
1	Goals per game	
2.1	Goals conceded per game	
30.2	Shooting accuracy (%)	
14	Touches in Opp box per game	

Scot is back at West Ham on 18-month deal

MATT LAWTON

David Moyes has been appointed the new manager of West Ham United after agreeing the terms of an 18-month contract yesterday.

The 56-year-old replaces Manuel Pellegrini, who was sacked on Saturday after defeat by Leicester City left the club 17th in the Premier League table.

Moyes will be officially presented at a press conference at Rush Green this afternoon, marking a most unlikely return to the London Stadium for the Scot given the circumstances surrounding his departure from the club in May last year.

He was hired in November 2017 to keep a struggling side in the Premier League. But when he succeeded in doing that with two games to spare the club did not reward him with an extension to his short-term contract, instead opting for Pellegrini.

Moyes told the club's website: "It's fabulous to be back. I've missed being here because I really enjoyed it and I feel like I've got unfinished business.

"I'm feeling very proud. More importantly, I'll be looking to see what I can do, what I can make improvements to, and how we can get some wins with the players. I believe that the squad I've got here is a better squad of players than when I took over before, so I am looking forward to working with them.

"I think there's got to be a short-term goal for us to get the wins to get us away from the wrong end of the league and what we're going to do over the next six months, then what we're going to do over the next period as well. The start is really focusing on the immediate games."

West Ham's co-chairman David Sullivan said: "David proved in his short time with the club that he was capable of getting results and we believe he will start moving the club in the right direction once again.

"He knows the club well and built strong relationships during that time which will be crucial for the work that needs to be done."

club who showed him no loyalty

By yesterday, however, Moyes and Sullivan were reunited and the 56-year-old Scot's longest absence from the game since he became a professional footballer in 1980 was over. Moyes, presumably, knows what he is walking into. He goes back to east London more on his terms, and not as a firefighter tasked with rescuing a club who, back in November 2017, were at risk of losing their Premier League status.

But the speed with which Manuel Pellegrini was sacked and Moyes was invited for talks — on Saturday night it seemed the two decisions were almost simultaneous — illustrates the ruthless nature of the business.

For Moyes, though, the lure is too great; the chance to trade television work, Uefa coaching conferences and League Managers' Association committee meetings for the training field was impossible to resist.

This is not just unfinished business at a club that he was keen to remain at last year. It is the opportunity he has been craving since that brutal departure from Old Trafford in 2014; a chance to firmly re-establish himself among English football's elite.

He rather hoped it would happen at Sunderland, when in truth he should have listened to a member of his own coaching staff he had sent to scout the squad. The report was far from positive but still Moyes took the job, with relegation the price of that particular error of judgment.

When West Ham asked him to revive a side struggling under Slaven Bilic, he at least took the opportunity to repair some of the damage. Premier League safety was secured with two games to spare, with the side finishing in 13th place.

Moyes did a fine job in difficult circumstances, and now intends to pick up where he left off with the same coaching staff at his side. Stuart Pearce was commentating for talkSPORT yesterday but he is expected to rejoin Moyes, along with Alan Irvine and possibly even Billy McKinlay if he can be prised away from Stoke City.

They, at least, are people Moyes can trust. Loyalty from those who employ him will be based purely on whether he succeeds in demonstrating it was a mistake to replace him with Pellegrini in the first place.

Sancho in United's sights after Haaland signs for Dortmund

PAUL HIRST, IAN WHITTELL

Borussia Dortmund are ready to listen to offers for Jadon Sancho this summer after beating Manchester United to the signing of Erling Haaland.

Dortmund pulled off arguably one of the transfers of the season after they announced the signing of Haaland, the in-form 19-year-old striker, from RB Salzburg yesterday. Haaland has signed a four-and-a-half year deal after Dortmund triggered his €20 million (£17.1 million) release clause. It is understood that United pulled out of the running to sign Haaland after becoming frustrated by the negotiating tactics of his agent, Mino Raiola.

Haaland's signing is likely to have repercussions for Sancho's future at Dortmund. Sancho's contract is due to expire in 2022 and Dortmund are aware that the teenager wants to return to the Premier League, where he was on Manchester City's books before leaving for Germany in 2017 for £8 million. The feeling in Dortmund is that they may want to cash in on the forward next summer.

Given that Sancho has gone on to win 11 England caps and become one of the most promising stars in Europe since joining, he will command a large fee. Dortmund are likely to ask for more than £100 million for him, and he will not be short of suitors. United, Real Madrid, City and Barcelona would all be interested in signing him. Under the terms of Sancho's departure from City, they have the right to match any successful bid for him.

It is thought that Sancho, 19, is intrigued by the prospect of moving to Spain, but he would be interested in talking to United too.

The signing of Haaland is a significant coup for Dortmund. He has scored sixteen goals in the Austrian top flight and a further eight in the Champions League this season.

United were confident of signing Haaland after scouts identified him as the solution to their striker shortage. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the United manager, even flew to Salzburg to speak to Haaland and his family this month, but Raiola's negotiating tactics caused them to call off their pursuit of the forward.

The Times understands that United refused to bow to Raiola's demand that a buyout clause, thought to be worth more than €50 million (about £42.7 million), be inserted into Haaland's new contract. It is also understood that Raiola and Haaland's father Alf-Inge Haaland, who used to play for Leeds United, will earn a cut from the striker's next transfer, to which United were not willing to agree.

It is not the first time that United have had problems with Raiola. The super agent angered them in the summer when he said he was organising a move away from Old Trafford for Paul Pogba. United insisted the midfielder was not for sale.

The failure to sign Haaland is a blow to Solskjaer, who used to manage the forward at Molde. Other than Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford, the only other striker at Solskjaer's disposal is the 18-year-old Mason Greenwood.

Martial and Rashford were on target in United's 2-0 win away to Burnley on Saturday, the first time in 15 league games that they had managed to keep a clean sheet.

Rashford praised the character shown by his team-mates, especially the winger Daniel James. "We speak about character. That's character for me. He's getting knocked down every time he's getting on the ball for 95 minutes but he's still getting up and running with the ball and making passes."

Dortmund beat United to the signing of the striker Haaland, right, from Salzburg yesterday

Match briefing

Burnley 0 — Manchester Utd 2

A superb finish from Anthony Martial in the 44th minute opened the scoring after a delightful pass from Andreas Pereira, who had dispossessed Charlie Taylor. Marcus Rashford wrapped up the win on the counterattack from Daniel James's through-ball in stoppage time.

Key moment

Nick Pope injured himself in the 37th minute by slipping over and looks likely to make way for Joe Hart, who spent the half-time interval warming-up. Pope came out for the second half, however, and lasted the game.

RATINGS

Burnley (4-4-2): N Pope 7 — P Bardsley 8, J Tarkowski 6, B Mee 6, C Taylor 5 — J Hendrick 5 (J Rodriguez 59min, 6), A Westwood 7, J Cork 6 (R Brady 87), D McNeil 6 — C Wood 6, A Barnes 5 (J Gudmundsson 68, 6). **Subs not used** M Lowton, D Drinkwater, J Hart, K Long. **Booked** Bardsley, Mee, Taylor, McNeil.

Manchester United (4-3-3) D De Gea 7 — A Young 7, V Lindelof 7, H Maguire 7, B Williams 8 — Fred 7, N Matic 6, A Pereira 9 (J Lingard 73, 6) — M Rashford 7, A Martial 8 (L Shaw 89), D James 7. **Subs not used** P Jones, J Mata, S Romero, M Greenwood, A Wan-Bissaka. **Booked** Williams, Fred, Lingard.

Referee M Dean. **Attendance** 21,924.

CLEAN SHEETS THIS SEASON

Sheffield United, Burnley, Leicester 7

Watford, Crystal Palace, Man City 6

Everton, Liverpool, Newcastle, Brighton, West Ham 5

Wolves, Chelsea, Aston Villa, Bournemouth 4

Arsenal, Southampton, **Man United** 3

Tottenham, Norwich 2

thegame

Pearson passion play sacrifices possession

MOLLY HUDSON

When Nigel Pearson was asked what he had done differently to transform Watford's fortunes since abandoning "semi-retirement" this month, he seemed to struggle to pinpoint exactly how the side have changed under his management.

Off the foot of the Premier League table, and closer to the safety line, something is clearly different. The same players remain but the new Watford manager has inspired two wins and a draw from his four games in charge, earning seven points.

But, one word defines his answers: commitment. It appeared too, in the complaints of Dean Smith, the Aston Villa manager, about his side but prefaced with the words: lack of.

"The performance during the first half is what lost us the game," Smith said. "I thought we got a reaction and started the second half better. We were more competitive with better work rate. What were we lacking? Commitment, for one. I thought Watford looked more committed."

But what does commitment actually translate to in terms of Watford's football under Pearson? Numerically, less possession, at an average of just 39.5 per cent, a marked contrast to the 52.4 per cent under Javi Gracia's time in charge, with passing accuracy also lower.

Watford have been known as the team in the lower echelons of the table willing to play attractive football, but Pearson has recognised this is not the priority in a relegation battle. Put simply, he needs his side to score more goals, and concede less.

Far from being a long-ball team Watford now spread the play more quickly, offering less chance for defensive errors. Troy Deeney, the Watford captain, embodies such commitment, scoring twice against Villa.

"He brings qualities that we need, he loves the pressure, he loves to be able to make a fight of a game. He is always a handful to play against," Pearson said. "He is still not at his best, the fact he has been able to play [the] number of games that he has, contribute three goals in the last week, bodes really well because he is a player that can occupy opponents really well, a focal point."

Pearson, of course, masterminded Leicester City's great escape in 2014-15 when they were in a similar predicament, and he added: "How we get out of the situation is going to be based on the unity of us as a football club and all the players playing their part in finding the solution to the situation we are in."

Ismaïla Sarr, the 21-year-old forward, earned the man of the match award with his threat down the wing while largely nullifying that of Villa's Jack Grealish who spent much of the game tracking back. Sarr's third goal in seven league games hints at a player settling in after his summer move from Rennes.

Étienne Capoue ran the midfield and Gerard Deulofeu also seems to be thriving under Pearson but perhaps most impressive of all is goalkeeper Ben Foster, whose experience will be crucial to Watford's fight for survival.

Under Pearson, the 36-year-old's save statistics are up to a remarkable 85 per cent, more than 20 per cent compared to his time under Quique Sánchez Flores and Gracia, Pearson's predecessors. This has been helped by a more organised defence, but the kind of save he produced to deny Wesley Moraes from point-blank range with the scores goalless, is invaluable.

Deeney, 31, and Foster have the kind of experience and fight to drag Watford out of the relegation battle, and more importantly the mentality to recognise this upturn in form is not nearly enough to confirm safety. Tougher tests await in the new year.

"If anybody involved with us at the moment thinks we have cracked it, then that is not how it works," Pearson said. "We are bound to have setbacks at some point but we will be more able to deal with setbacks if we show the right work ethic, the commitment to doing what we are trying to do and get over-emotional. I'm already thinking ahead, I'm not dwelling."

Match briefing

Watford	Aston Villa
3	0

Troy Deeney scored the opener, before Adrian Mariappa earned a second yellow card six minutes after his first. Deeney claimed his second from the spot, capitalising on an injury to Villa full back Matt Targett. Ismaïla Sarr slid in the third, despite a possible foul on Jack Grealish in the build-up. Both goals stood after lengthy VAR checks.

Key moment

With the scores level in the 25th minute, Ben Foster made a crucial save, tipping Wesley's header over the crossbar from close range.

RATINGS

Watford (4-2-3-1): B Foster 7 — A Mariappa 6, C Kabasele 6, C Cathcart 7 (sub: A Masina 85), K Femenia 7 — W Hughes 7 (N Chalobah 45, 6; C Dawson 60, 7), É Capoue 8 — I Sarr 8, A Doucouré 7, G Deulofeu 7 — T Deeney 8. **Subs not used** H Gomes, A Gray, D Quina, I Success. **Booked** Capoue, Sarr, Deeney. **Sent off** Mariappa.

Aston Villa (4-2-3-1): T Heaton 6 — A Elmohamady 6, E Konsa 5, K Hause 6, M Targett 6 (F Guilbert 66, 6) — D Luiz 6, C Hourihane 6 — Jota 5 (A El Ghazi 45, 6), H Lansbury 5 (J Kodija 73), J Grealish 6 — Wesley 5. **Subs not used** O Nyland, J Chester, M Nakamba, Trézéguet. **Booked** Grealish.

Referee S Hooper.

PEARSON EFFECT IN NUMBERS

Pearson	2019-20	Pre-Pearson
4	GAMES	16
2	WINS	1
1	DRAWS	6
1	LOSSES	9
7	POINTS	7
50	WIN %	6
6	GOALS SCORED	9
1.5	PER GAME	0.6
3	GOALS CONCEDED	30
0.8	PER GAME	1.9
11	SHOTS PER GAME	12
15	SHOTS FACED PER GAME	12
39.6	POSSESSION	44.1
70	PASS ACCURACY	77

Brighton fits the bill for loan star Mooy

IAN WINROW

Graham Potter insists the possibility of converting Aaron Mooy's loan stay at Brighton & Hove Albion into a permanent arrangement is a matter for future discussion. There is little doubt, however, the manager will be anxious to keep the midfielder, particularly if Mooy maintains the levels he showed in the convincing 2-0 victory against Bournemouth.

Mooy, 29, joined Brighton from relegated Huddersfield Town, satisfying his desire to play in the Premier League. The Australian has emerged as Brighton's standout player in recent weeks. Saturday's match-winning performance was capped by his first goal for the club, a superbly taken effort late on to secure the victory after Alireza Jahanbakhsh's early opener, underlining his value.

The relationship is benefiting both parties. "I'm enjoying Brighton," said Mooy, who insisted he has not spoken to Huddersfield, who are struggling just above the drop zone in the Sky Bet Championship, about his future. "I don't know what's going to happen but I'm enjoying Brighton. I think the way we play suits me more than the way we did at Huddersfield because we like to play through the lines and that's how I like to play."

Potter was similarly guarded about the player's future. "With all these relationships it has to work for the club that he belongs to, it has to work for us and it has to work for the player," he said. "That has always been my focus."

Defeat meant Bournemouth have lost seven of their past nine games. "It's been a tough year," Eddie Howe, the club's manager, said. "This early season is the most difficult I've had in terms of resources."

Steve Cook, the centre back, is in no doubt where improvements are required. "No endeavour, no bravery," he said. "We could be in a lot of trouble if we don't pull our fingers out and fight for it."

Match briefing

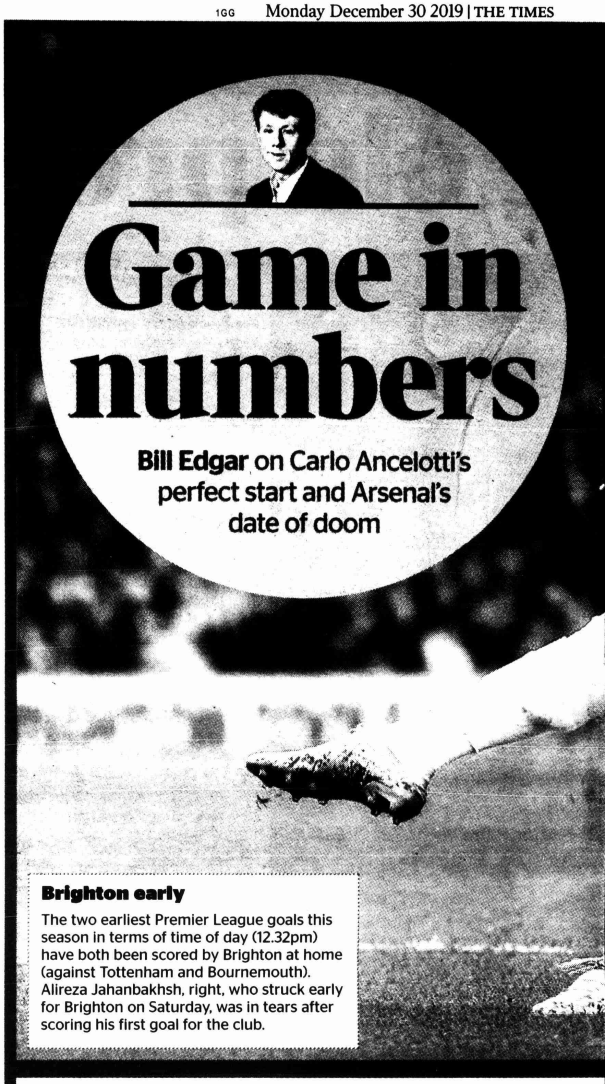
Brighton	Bournemouth
2	0

RATINGS

Brighton & Hove Albion (4-3-3): M Ryan 7 — M Montoya 6, L Dunk 7, S Duffy 6, D Burn 7 — Y Bissouma 8 (G Murray 89min), D Propper 7, A Mooy 9 (D Stephens 84) — A Jahanbakhsh 6 (S Alzate 84), N Maupay 7, L Trossard 7. **Subs not used** D Button, P Gross, A Webster, Bernardo.

Bournemouth (4-4-2): A Ramsdale 6 — J Stacey 7, S Cook 6, C Mepham 6, D Rico 6 — J Stanislas 5 (C Wilson 62, 6), D Gosling 7, P Billing 6, H Wilson 5 (R Fraser 62, 6) — J King 7 (L Cook 73), D Solanke 6. **Subs not used** A Boruc, A Surman, J Lerma, J Simpson. **Booked** S Cook, Billing.

Referee P Tierney.



Game in numbers

Bill Edgar on Carlo Ancelotti's perfect start and Arsenal's date of doom

Brighton early

The two earliest Premier League goals this season in terms of time of day (12.32pm) have both been scored by Brighton at home (against Tottenham and Bournemouth). Alireza Jahanbakhsh, right, who struck early for Brighton on Saturday, was in tears after scoring his first goal for the club.

Untroubled innings

Liverpool are unbeaten in 50 home league games and have not even come close to losing: they have not trailed after the 52nd minute in that run. Jürgen Klopp's side top the table at the end of 2019, hoping this season to narrow to 20-19 Manchester United's title advantage over them. Andy Lonergan, a Liverpool reserve goalkeeper, has been a player at the leaders of the Premier League, Championship (Leeds United), League One (Wycombe Wanderers) and League Two (Swindon Town). Liverpool and Nottingham Forest met 12 times in 26 months from December 1977 to February 1980, when they were arguably England's best two teams. Meetings in the 2000s: zero; and in the 2010s: zero.

Date of doom

Arsenal's past two league defeats after leading both came on December 29 (to Chelsea yesterday and to Liverpool a year ago). Arsenal's seven-game run without a home win is three more than their next longest such run over the past 12 seasons. Just as 12 months ago, the Premier League's only two German managers are top and bottom of the table at the turn of the year: Liverpool's Klopp has been top both times; Norwich's Daniel Farke is bottom, as was Huddersfields German-American David Wagner a year ago.

Commons theme

The Premier League's two MP managers were sacked less than a month from the general election: Manuel Pellegrini left West Ham United on Saturday (16 days after the election), following Tottenham Hotspur's Mauricio Pochettino (23 days before it). West Ham's third managerial change when based at the London Stadium has come three years after they moved there; their third managerial change when based at Upton Park, their previous home, came 57 years after they moved there. West Ham (seven) versus Leicester City (nine) featured the most combined changes to starting line-ups of any fixture since the Premier League's formation in 1992. Leicester were the first to make nine changes yet win away in the Premier League since Manchester United did so against Hull City in May 2009.

From zero to hero

In consecutive days an English winger wearing No 7 had a penalty saved yet subsequently scored in that match: Leicester's Demarai Gray, and Manchester City's Raheem Sterling against Wolverhampton Wanderers. The

Trade on the football stockmarket

Ndombélé puts José's philosophy to the test

JAMES GHEERBRANT

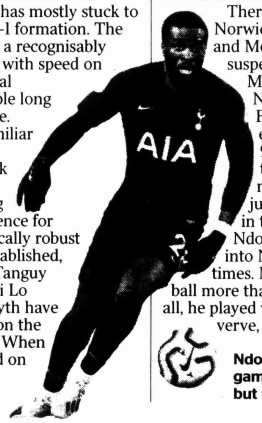
Can José Mourinho change? One way to answer that question is via the medium of Google. Type in those words and the results are numerous.

"José Mourinho reveals how he has changed since Chelsea" — that one is from early in his Manchester United reign, heralding Mourinho's contention that he had "mellowed". "Mourinho insists he's a changed man" — that's from 2013, during his Real Madrid tenure, when he suggested he was better able to "control [his] emotions". And also: "Mourinho: I've changed for the better" — that one dates back to 2004, his first Chelsea spell, when the Portuguese proclaimed "a better sense of fair play and better relations with people involved in the game".

Mourinho is the iguana who thinks he's a chameleon. Nevertheless, old habits die hard, and prior to his appointment at Tottenham Hotspur, he apparently did a good job of convincing the Spurs hierarchy that he had used his time away from the dugout to continue his evolution, developing new, more progressive theories of play, and shedding the conservative pragmatism that had been found obsolete at United.

In fairness, his promises were not entirely unfounded: he has, for example, replaced his long-time assistant Rui Faria with João Sacramento, a 30-year-old whizzkid analyst. But on the pitch, evidence of a grand transformation has been limited. Mourinho has mostly stuck to his preferred 4-2-3-1 formation. The team has played in a recognisably Mourinho fashion: with speed on the wings, positional discipline, and ample long balls to Harry Kane.

But the most familiar page from the Mourinho playbook has been his treatment of young players. His preference for experienced, physically robust warriors is well-established, and sure enough, Tanguy Ndombélé, Giovani Lo Celso and Juan Foyth have found themselves on the outside looking in. When Mourinho divulged on Boxing Day that Ndombélé felt unable to play against Brighton & Hove Albion for fear of a recurring adductor injury, and added, "I like players who make sacrifices for the team," it felt like a movie we'd seen many times before — one that wouldn't end happily for Ndombélé.



There was a twist. Against Norwich City, Harry Winks and Moussa Sissoko were suspended, forcing Mourinho to start Ndombélé. And the Frenchman was excellent. He completed 91 per cent of his passes, the best rate of the match. These weren't just safe sideways pushes in the centre of the park: Ndombélé passed the ball into Norwich's final third 15 times. No player recovered the ball more than his 11 times. Above all, he played with invention and verve, typified by a sumptuous rabona, where he wrapped his right leg around the back of his left to deliver a cross for Kane.

Ndombélé only started the game due to suspensions but was outstanding

Ndombélé is the sort of central midfielder Tottenham have lacked since Mousa Dembélé's decline. He offers not only defensive grunt work, but also a deep passing threat. If you look at his statistics from Lyons last season (65.6 passes per 90 minutes, 9.1 passes into the final third, 1.6 chances created), they are strikingly similar to Dembélé's output for Spurs during his peak seasons, 2016-17 and 2017-18: 66.1 passes, 9.3 passes into the final third, one chance created.

But is Mourinho the man to get the best out of him? He contends that he adapts to his players. "Players make teams play in certain ways," he once said. "[At] Real Madrid, I had my best team in direct counterattack because I had Ronaldo, Di María, Higuaín and Benzema. [At] Inter [Milan], I had my best team in a defensive low block, [with] people like [Marco] Materazzi, [Walter] Samuel, Lúcio."

At Tottenham, it has felt more like Mourinho shoehorning the players into his template than vice versa: hence his preference for Sissoko, Winks, and Eric Dier in central midfield. Mourinho tends to favour physically dominant defensive midfielders and risk-free ball recyclers: at Chelsea it was N'Golo Kanté and Nemanja Matic, at United Matic and Scott McTominay, and in his first spell at Chelsea Claude Makélélé and Michael Essien. When Mourinho has played more progressive passers in the pivot, they have been world-class players in their prime, like Xabi Alonso.

A weakness of Mourinho teams is that they are built to attack through quick counters and long balls, but often lack the ability to create through patient possession or unpick a set defence. In 2017-18, for example, when his United team finished second, they played fewer passes into the final third than Huddersfield.

That's why Ndombélé feels like a fascinating acid test of Mourinho's ability to change. If you are building a team around a core of Tottenham's most talented players, he's in it, but he comes with the inexperience and fragility that the Portuguese has often seen as red flags. On Saturday, he was effusive in his praise of Ndombélé, whom he called "absolutely phenomenal". Will he stick with him? He could be the key to unlocking a more progressive Mourinho team.

Match briefing

Norwich	Tottenham
2	2

Mario Vrancic capitalised on Juan Foyth's careless loss of possession to give Norwich the lead, and only VAR prevented them from leading 2-0 at the interval. Tottenham equalised through Christian Eriksen's precise free kick, before Serge Aurier inadvertently diverted the ball into his own goal. Harry Kane's penalty, after a reckless tackle by Christoph Zimmermann, was a fair reward for Spurs' late pressure.

Key moment

From Vrancic's brilliant deep cross, Teemu Pukki chested the ball down and appeared to double Norwich's lead with an unerring finish. But VAR determined his upper body was fractionally offside.

RATINGS

Norwich City (4-2-3-1): T Krul 7 — M Aarons 6, C Zimmermann 5, G Hanley 5, J Lewis 6 — A Tettey 5 (T Cantwell 86min), M Vrancic 8 (T Trybull 75) — E Buendía 7, M Stiepermann 6 (K McLean 70, 5), O Hernández 6 — T Pukki 7. **Subs not used** M McGovern, S Byram, I Amadou, D Srbeny. **Booked** Vrancic, Krul, Lewis.

Tottenham Hotspur (3-5-1-1): P Gazzaniga 6 — J Foyth 4 (L Moura 46, 7), T Alderweireld 5, J Vertonghen 5 (D Sánchez 46, 6) — S Aurier 5, C Eriksen 8, T Ndombélé 6, G Lo Celso 6 (E Lamela 75), R Sessegnon 5 — D Alli 6 — H Kane 6. **Subs not used** M Vorm, E Dier, O Skipp, J Tanganga. **Booked** Moura, Eriksen, Alderweireld. **Referee** K Friend.

VAR WATCH

Bill Edgar on the week's big decisions

DECISIONS OVERTURNED

Southampton v Crystal Palace
Wilfried Zaha crossed for Max Meyer to score for Palace, but VAR indicated that Zaha was offside.
Time taken: 1min 18sec.

Norwich City v Tottenham Hotspur
Teemu Pukki fired home for Norwich, but VAR suggested he was fractionally offside when Mario Vrancic played a long ball forward.
Time taken: 1min 41sec.

Liverpool v Wolverhampton Wanderers
At first Liverpool's Sadio Mané had a goal disallowed for a handball by Adam Lallana, but VAR decided the ball had hit Lallana's shoulder.
Time taken: 1min 17sec.

Liverpool v Wolves
Pedro Neto converted Jonny's cross for Wolves, but VAR showed that the latter was offside when receiving a pass from João Moutinho.
Time taken: 2min 3sec.

58
Decisions overturned this season **Total 58** in 199 games (1 per 3.4 games)

32
Goals chalked off (Sheff Utd 5, West Ham 3, Wolves 3, Man City 2, Chelsea 2, Aston Villa 2, Burnley 2, Liverpool 2, Arsenal 2, Brighton 2, Tottenham 2, Crystal Palace 2, Bournemouth 1, Leicester 1, Norwich 1)

7
Goals awarded (Bournemouth 2, Arsenal 1, Crystal Palace 1, Leicester 1, Newcastle 1, Liverpool 1)

1min 29sec
Average time taken to make decisions

latter game saw Ederson become the first away goalkeeper sent off in the Premier League for five seasons. City last night became the first team since Sunderland in 1910 to complete a run of 100 top-flight games with as few as eight draws.

Carlo at double

Everton's Carlo Ancelotti is the first manager for ten years to have won his first two Premier League games of a spell just two days apart: they beat Burnley on Thursday and Newcastle United on Saturday. Newcastle have scored the most Premier League goals by defenders this season but the fewest by the rest of the team.

Red letters

Watford's Adrian Mariappa became the fourth player sent off against Aston Villa this season with the initials AM (also Ainsley Maitland-Niles, Aaron Mooy and Arthur Masuaku). Watford won 3-0 against Villa; this season Villa won 5-1 against Norwich, who won 3-2 against Manchester City … who won 8-0 against Watford.

Historic low

Southend United, halfway through the League One season, are on course for the worst campaign in any division outside the top flight since Doncaster Rovers in 1904-05.

PEARSON PUNCHING

Only three English managers since 2000 have recorded more top-flight points over a 13-game run than Nigel Pearson's tally of 29. Pearson has recorded that sequence with struggling clubs: the first nine matches saved Leicester City from relegation in 2014-15 and the next four have lifted Watford off the bottom

English managers with most points in run of 13 Premier League games since 2000	Average league position in run
Harry Redknapp, Spurs, Sept-Dec 2011 — 34pts	6th
Sir Bobby Robson, Newcastle, Dec 2001-Feb 2002 — 31pts	2nd
Glenn Hoddle, Soton/Spurs, Dec 2001-Apr 2002 — 30pts	12th
Nigel Pearson, Leicester/Watford, Apr-May 2015, Dec 2019 — 29pts	18th
Peter Reid, Sunderland, Oct 2000-Jan 2001 — 29pts	6th
Sam Allardyce, Bolton, Jan-Apr 2005 — 29pts	8th

Football Index

Rise of Messi, City, VAR and a return of the Anfield aura

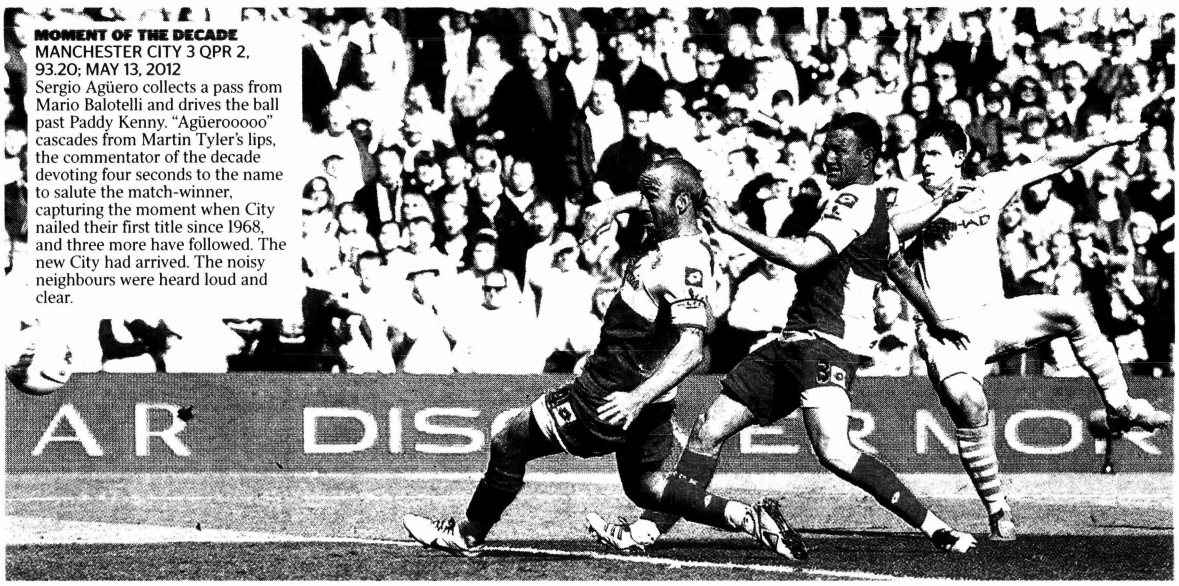
Review of the decade

Chief Football Writer **Henry Winter** looks at ten years that changed the game beyond recognition

MATCH OF THE DECADE
LIVERPOOL 4 BARCELONA 0, ANFIELD, MAY 7, 2019.
Divock Origi struck early, the noise grew and Liverpool pressed the life out of Barcelona. Georginio Wijnaldum scored twice early in the second half before Trent Alexander-Arnold's quick-thinking at a corner, delivering the ball as Barcelona set themselves, allowed Origi to complete a miraculous comeback in front of a delirious Kop. It was breathless theatre, pure adrenaline, total Liverpool, a team, management and support in complete harmony. Everybody played their part whether it was Sadio Mané running Barcelona to distraction or Jürgen Klopp being the pulsating emotional source on the touchline to the fans' unstinting noise and belief. Liverpool rolled towards a sixth European Cup with defeat of Tottenham Hotspur in the final in Madrid but nothing could match the magic and majesty of their rout of Lionel Messi and company in that unforgettable semi-final, second leg.

PLAYER OF THE DECADE
It would be good to hail the impact of Raheem Sterling on and off the field, the elegant longevity of David Silva, the leadership and role model qualities of Vincent Kompany, the hunger of Jordan Henderson, the style of Eden Hazard, and especially the sleek goal machine that is Cristiano Ronaldo but it has to be Messi. We live in the age of the phenomenal little Argentinian with his ability to weave through midfield and defences, his strength, both physical and mental, to ride brutal challenges, and his eye for goal with rolling ball and still. Messi is still not quite in the class of his compatriot Diego Maradona (watch the videos back, see the tackles, see how he lifts capable but not stellar team-mates), and certainly not with international impact, but the 32-year-old's return of 565 goals in 529 games for Barcelona is off the scale. Messi hardly dives, rarely complains, is committed to the team, and exudes class off the field too. Nobody has graced the decade more than Messi.

MOST SIGNIFICANT WAY THE SPORT HAS CHANGED/TACTICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE DECADE
It would be easy to herald Manchester City's broad influence under Pep Guardiola, enlightening the English, educating Regina, encouraging bold building from the back. It would be so nice simply to laud Gareth Southgate for making England's inhibited players express themselves on and off the field, showing everyone that football is more than a game, that it can try to shape society with debates about racism, mental health and homelessness. From Anfield to Doha, Liverpool's tactics under Klopp, their global swarming that sweeps opponents off the park, sets a new benchmark in intensity. But, love it or loathe it, VAR is the most significant development of the decade. It is needed, helping out referees in a sport of speed and simulation, and in an age of technology, but is still inadequately administered by Mike Riley and a collection of officials that lacks the self-belief and experience of previous generations. When the balance on interference is right, when the laws are judiciously enacted without destroying the flow and joy of the game, when fans are properly informed, VAR may be accepted.



ANDY HOOPER/ANL/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

MOMENT OF THE DECADE
MANCHESTER CITY 3 QPR 2, 93.20; MAY 13, 2012
Sergio Agüero collects a pass from Mario Balotelli and drives the ball past Paddy Kenny. "Agüeroooo" cascades from Martin Tyler's lips, the commentator of the decade devoting four seconds to the name to salute the match-winner, capturing the moment when City nailed their first title since 1968, and three more have followed. The new City had arrived. The noisy neighbours were heard loud and clear.

Messi exudes class on and off the field

TEAM OF THE DECADE
Many contenders: Manchester City in England, Barcelona in Spain, Bayern Munich in Germany and Juventus in Italy all deserve mentions in despatches but the trophy that matters most, that glistens brightest in the pantheon of the game is the European Cup, and Real Madrid have dominated the decade. Real have more than a strong relationship with the competition. It's a love affair. It's impossible to argue with Real being the team of the decade. Time and again, their passion for the trophy with the big ears has lit up their season, and the European season. It's beautiful to behold, this constant craving, a reminder that the game is about glory. It's an ambition stated loudly at the start of the season, beating in their hearts, for ever woven into their history. This drive for the Champions League in yet another decade saw Real triumphant in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018, a fabulous, almost unbelievable return, taking them to 13 in total, six clear of their closest rival, AC Milan. They destroyed Atletico Madrid in Lisbon, edged their neighbours on penalties in Milan, then overwhelmed Juventus in Cardiff and Liverpool in Kiev. Sergio Ramos demonstrated why he is one of the most effective defenders of all time. Gareth Bale won four medals, including a bravura performance with two sensational goals against Liverpool, cementing him as one of the most successful European players ever. It makes legends of players, and confirms Real as the club of clubs.

Hasenhüttl inspires team back to their thrilling best

TOM RODDY

Due to the pressure of print deadlines, Ralph Hasenhüttl's programme notes were written a week in advance. Unaware of their results against Aston Villa and Chelsea, and with his team hanging in a perilous position, all the Southampton manager could write was "that I hope we have more points to our name".

Seven days and seven points later, Southampton have lifted themselves out of the bottom three and opened up a four-point gap to the relegation zone. It has been a remarkable month for Hasenhüttl and his men who have transformed their fortunes. Wins at Villa Park and Stamford Bridge were followed by this spirited home draw against an organised Palace side.

Hasenhüttl's team pressed high through Sofiane Boufal and Nathan Redmond, who were supported by their full backs breaking forward with freedom, while James Ward-Prowse orchestrated from midfield. This was the thrilling Southampton side seen when Hasenhüttl arrived a year ago.

"We have a real identity under the manager," Ward-Prowse, 25, said. "That's why we were so successful last season.

"We have found that again and that's the reason why we have started to pick up points again.

"The international break was a good chance to work on things. It was a period in our season where it was kind of make or break. We knew we were in a difficult situation."

Despite going behind to Palace, Hasenhüttl's reinvigorated side did not crumble. He knows their defence needs work but in Moussa Djenepo, returning from injury, they have ability, Danny Ings provides the goals and Ward-Prowse is the creator.

"The key thing for us is momentum," Ward-Prowse said. So Tottenham Hotspur will beware a resurgent Southampton on Wednesday.

Match briefing

Southampton	Crystal Palace
1	1

After Max Meyer's goal was ruled out for offside, James Tomkins – making his 350th career appearance – gave Palace the lead with a towering header early in the second half. But Southampton were gifted an equaliser scored by Danny Ings. Moussa Djenepo almost inspired the win after coming on as a second-half substitute but the Southampton winger's shot was palmed away by Vicente Guaita.

Key moment
Martin Kelly's sloppy back-pass allowed an alert Ings to confidently slot his 12th goal of the season past Guaita in the 74th minute.

RATINGS
Southampton (4-4-2): A McCarthy 6 – Cédric 6, J Stephens 6, J Bednarek 6, R Bertrand 6 – S Boufal 7 (sub: S Armstrong 68min, 6), J Ward-Prowse 7, P-E Hojbjerg 6, N Redmond 6 – C Adams 5 (M Djenepo 64, 7), D Ings 7. **Subs not used** A Gunn, M Yoshida, J Vestergaard, O Romeu, W Smallbone. **Booked** Ward-Prowse.
Crystal Palace (4-3-3): V Guaita 8 – M Kelly 5, J Tomkins 7, M Sakho 6, J Riedewald 7 – J McArthur 6, L Milivojevic 6, J McCarthy 6 – M Meyer 6 (C Kouyaté 84, 6), J Ayew 6, W Zaha 7. **Subs not used** W Hennessey, S Woods, B Pierrick, V Camarasa, J Daly, C Wickham. **Booked** Milivojevic, McArthur. **Referee** A Madley.

'I'm still alive!' Bielsa relieved to survive epic see-saw win

CHAMPIONSHIP
TIM NASH

Marcelo Bielsa joked that he was glad to still be alive after his Leeds United team edged a nine-goal thriller at St Andrew's.

Leeds returned to the top of the Sky Bet Championship after a remarkable sequence of scoring in which they went from being seemingly home and dry at 2-0 up before being pegged back at 2-2, 3-3 and 4-4 before Wes Harding's own goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time settled the contest.

Asked how his heart was after such a chaotic match, the 64-year-old Argentinian said: "I'm alive." Bielsa also said that the see-saw nature of the game made it pointless in trying to predict whether Leeds, who were without their top goalscorer Patrick Bamford, can maintain their place at the top of the table.

They face a trip to West Bromwich Albion, the team they replaced on goal difference at the top, on New Year's Day.

"When you have to analyse something that hasn't happened yet, time to prove it is better than doing it," he said. "Imagine if you had to give an opinion previously about the match against Cardiff, Fulham, Preston and this match.

"Everything I say about this would have been wrong because it was unexpected what would have happened. So analysing four matches is very hard and so is analysing 20 games. [For] all the previous analysis about our team, we saw the opposite in the match.

"We had high efficiency to score. We are a team that need a lot of chances to score and we didn't have safety in defence. And we conceded goals that normally we would be in good condition to resolve.

"After the first part of the second half, the match had no definition, even though we improved during this period, and after it got to 2-2, the match was weird, strange."

Match briefing

Birmingham	Leeds
4	5

Goals from Helder Costa after 15 minutes and Jack Harrison on 21 appeared to put Leeds in place to end their three-match winless run.

But Jude Bellingham reduced the arrears six minutes later before Lukas Jutkiewicz levelled in the 61st minute.

An end-to-end second half had six goals, four of which came in the last 12 minutes including time added on. Luke Ayling put Leeds back in front before setting up Stuart Dallas for their fourth goal six minutes from time, sandwiching Jérémie Bela's 83rd-minute header.

Jutkiewicz equalised again in the first minute of time added on, sliding home Bela's cross from close range only for Wes Harding, the Birmingham defender, to divert Ayling's cross into his own net in the 95th minute.

Key moment
Ayling's thunderous effort from the edge of the area helped Leeds regain the lead in the 69th minute.

RATINGS

Birmingham (4-4-1-1): C Trueman 7 — M Colin 7, W Harding 6, H Dean 6, K Pedersen 6 — D Crowley 7 (sub: J Bela 68min, 6), I Sunjic 6, G Gardner 7, J Bellingham 8 (J Montero 74) — K Mrabti 7 (A Gimenez 74) — L Jutkiewicz 8. **Subs not used** L Camp, J McEachran, J Maghoma, D Davis. **Booked** Harding, Gardner, Mrabti, Jutkiewicz, Montero.

Leeds (3-5-2): K Casilla 7 — L Ayling 8, B White 6, L Cooper 7 — H Costa 6, S Dallas 7, K Phillips 7, M Klich 6 (G Berardi 86), E Alioski 7 (T Roberts 81) — J Harrison 8, E Nketiah 6. **Subs not used** I Meslier, B Douglas, R Gotts, J Stevens, O Casey. **Booked** Casilla, Nketiah, Ayling.

Referee K Stroud.

Bielsa was delighted with the determination and energy of his team, after they were pegged back three times before the winner came deep into stoppage time.

"The spirit of the team when they were drawing 4-4 was shown by [Ezgjan] Alioski, a left winger trying to score put the match to 5-4 and every time Birmingham scored, we had energy to go for one more goal," he said.

MALCOLM BRYCE/PROSPORTS/REX

Dallas thought he had won the match for Leeds in the 84th minute but there was still time for the two sides to exchange stoppage-time goals in a thrilling finish

Pep Clotet, the Birmingham head coach, revealed that the FA has agreed to meet them next month over decisions that have gone against them after he claimed the corner from which the winning goal came should have been a goal kick. His side have now slipped to within eight points of the relegation places and face Wigan Athletic, the bottom-placed side, at home on Wednesday.

"The corner that led to their fifth goal was a mistake you can't make — it should have been a goal kick," the Spaniard said. "It always happens to Birmingham. I have been saying it to the FA, who have agreed. They want to come and talk to us about it in January.

"Marcelo is the best manager in the country, and possibly the world, so I love pitting my wits against him. I love the football Marcelo plays and I have stolen a lot of things from him!"

Celtic Park win best yet for Gerrard

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP
MICHAEL GRANT

The Rangers manager Steven Gerrard admitted that winning his first Old Firm game at Celtic Park felt like the best result of his managerial career as their 2-1 win helped them to seize the initiative in the Premiership.

Ryan Kent and Nikola Katic delivered a third derby win out of seven under Gerrard but the first away from Ibrox. Alfredo Morelos and Rangers coach Michael Beale were sent off as tempers flared in stoppage time, but by then Celtic were crashing to their first home loss to Rangers since 2010. Odsonne Édouard had equalised with a goal that should have been disallowed for handball but Rangers won to move two points behind with a game in hand.

"It feels the best right now," said Gerrard, who celebrated the 2-1 score with uncharacteristic excitement and expression at full-time. "Celtic are a fantastic team. You only have to look at what they have achieved."

The win means that his players believe they can win the league and deny Celtic nine titles in a row. "You saw the belief in the performance. It comes from the Betfred Cup final [Rangers lost but were the better side] and the domination we showed over the 90 minutes. We came away from that game knowing that we can compete with Celtic and if we can play to our level we can more than match them. It's emotional. Celtic took a trophy away from us a couple of weeks ago in a game that we dominated. But we came away with huge belief. The players have delivered so far and they all deserve credit for it. But there's a long way to go and we need to keep this hunger."

Morelos was booked for a foul on Scott Brown and then cautioned for diving. He made a throat-slitting gesture with his finger as he was led up the tunnel. Beale was sent to the stand for an angry reaction in the technical area.

"I've got time to reset the kid [Morelos]," Gerrard said. "He does some incredible stuff and his emotions got the better of him but that frustration might have come from [Christopher] Jullien not getting a straight red moments before because it's a clear foul on the edge of the box."

Middlesbrough end West Brom run

GRAHAM HILL

The West Bromwich Albion manager Slaven Bilic urged his players to regroup and begin another unbeaten run after conceding top spot to Leeds United before the New Year's Day meeting between the teams — along with their unbeaten home record in this season's Championship.

It was a day when Bilic lost out tactically to his Middlesbrough counterpart Jonathan Woodgate, who changed his side's shape to nullify the threat of Albion's Brazilian midfielder Matheus Pereira.

Woodgate's plan worked with Albion lacking the edge to get back into the game after skipper Daniel Ayala had opened the scoring with a 17th-minute header. From then on, Middlesbrough controlled the game and made sure of their first away win of the season — and third successive victory — with a stunning 30-yard dipping shot from Ashley Fletcher four minutes into stoppage time.

Match briefing

West Brom	Middlesbrough
0	2

RATINGS

West Brom (4-2-3-1) S Johnstone 7 — D Furlong 6, S Ajayi 6, A Hegazi 6, N Ferguson 5 (sub: C Townsend, 46min, 6) — J Livermore 6, G Barry 6 (F Krovinovic, 59, 5) — M Pereira 6, M Phillips 6, K Edwards 5 (C Austin, 46, 6) — H Robson-Kanu 5. **Subs not used** J Bond, K Bartley, C Brunt, R Sawyers. **Booked** Livermore, Phillips, Furlong, Austin.

Middlesbrough (4-2-3-1): A Pears 7 — J Howson 8, D Fry 8, D Ayala 8, H Coulson 8 — A Clayton 8, G Saville 8 — D Spence 8 (M Johnson, 77), M Tavernier 8, L Wing 8 (R Gestede, 86) — A Fletcher 8. **Subs not used** T Mejias, N Wood, M Bola, T O'Neill, B Liddle. **Booked** Howson, Spence, Coulson.

"We were complacent, but it was not deliberate and you can learn a lot in defeat," Bilic said after his side lost for the first time in 15 matches.

"We were not good enough. We knew how Middlesbrough would play, but we were not crazy enough for it. We got punished, but now we have to pick ourselves up and go for it again."

Woodgate said his team deserved their victory. "It was an excellent performance, not many teams have come here and done that.

"But let's not get carried away, we're climbing the table and that was a top result against a team who will probably go on to win promotion."

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND UP

Fulham ended 2019 in third after Bobby Decordova-Reid's first-half goal earned a 1-0 win at home to **Stoke City**, who are only above the relegation zone on goal difference.

Decordova-Reid pounced after Jack Butland had saved from Anthony Knockaert. "Bobby is one of the few players who could have scored that goal," Scott Parker, the Fulham manager, said. "He anticipates things very well and always gets into the right areas."

One of the shocks of the day came at Hillsborough, where **Cardiff City** ended a run of four games without a win by beating **Sheffield Wednesday** — who began the day in fourth place — 2-1 thanks to early goals from Robert Glatzel and Junior Hoilett. It was Wednesday's first home defeat since Garry Monk took over as manager in September. Monk was angered by a late challenge from Hoilett on Liam Palmer. "It's nothing other than a red card," Monk said. "It [the tackle] is reckless and out of control. I've got a player sat in the treatment room with an ankle the size of a balloon and if you can't see that from four yards away, as the fourth official was …"

Brice Samba was the hero for **Nottingham Forest** as **Wigan Athletic** were beaten 1-0 at the City Ground. The keeper made three vital saves, including one that kept out a second-half penalty from Josh Windass. Tobias Figueiredo's header secured three points for Sabri Lamouchi's side, who were lifted into the top six. "We were a little bit lucky," the Forest manager said.

THE JOURNEYMAN

Gregor Robertson visits Bromley

'Worst club in Britain' now reaching for stars

RYAN TANNER

Cheek celebrates his 11th goal of the season in Bromley's 3-0 win

Bromley's 2020 can be "anything we want it to be", says their ebullient manager Neil Smith, and something is certainly stirring at Hayes Lane.

With 2019 drawing to an end the spirited little southeast London club are third in the National League, two points behind the leaders Barrow, with designs on the Football League for the first time. "I want to take this club as far and as high as I can, make a bit of history," Smith says.

Bromley have a rich heritage but they are breaking new ground. In the reception area at Hayes Lane, a black and white mural depicts celebrations from their finest hour, a 1-0 win against Romford in the 1949 FA Amateur Cup final in front of 96,000 supporters at Wembley. Another wall is adorned with an image of their 20,000 fans at Wembley for the 2017-18 FA Trophy final, in the club's 125-year anniversary season. But the intervening decades were often a battle for survival.

The upward curve began when Jerry Dolke, a former Bromley player and now their director of football, returned to the perennial Isthmian League strugglers as chairman in 2001. Two promotions in three seasons propelled the club to the Conference South in 2007. Dolke's brother-in-law, Mark Goldberg — briefly the Crystal Palace owner in the late Nineties — was manager on and off until 2016 when his assistant, Smith, took the reins, a year after Bromley had won the Conference South title.

More recently, Robin Stanton-Gleaves, a local businessman, has been investing astutely. The decision to lay an artificial pitch, in 2017, means Bromley now earn revenue and draw in the community throughout the week. Another 11-a-side 4G surface and two six-a-side pitches behind the South Stand house a burgeoning academy of 220 boys and girls and a women's team. The aim is to be "the hub of football in Bromley," Smith says, and crowds average more than 2,000. The club have a contingency plan to move their plastic pitch to an area adjacent to the academy pitches and lay a grass pitch to meet EFL regulations if they win promotion.

Hayes Lane remains a glorious patchwork of corrugated iron and cracked concrete terracing. The club office is housed in a Portakabin while The Ravens bar, packed to the rafters on Saturday, is a converted cabin once used by workers on the Channel tunnel. But a sleek new 1,500-seat stand — which also houses 20,000 square feet of commercial units — was opened in the summer and further development is planned.

A local thread — easily lost as a club grows, even in the fifth tier — still runs through the club. Jack Holland, the captain, is a product of the academy. Smith and Stanton-Gleaves, who became chairman in the summer, went to the Ravensbourne school across the road. Smith is an engaging ambassador for a club, regularly visiting schools and drumming up support in the community.

Smith, 48, began his playing career at Tottenham Hotspur under Terry Venables but never made a first-team appearance. There were promotions under Tony Pulis at Gillingham and Kevin Keegan at Fulham. Three seasons under Alan Pardew at Reading preceded his drop into non-League, which included a brief stint at Bromley in 2008.

His energy is infectious. After three top-half finishes, a 13-game unbeaten start to the season put Bromley top of the table in October. On Saturday, Michael Cheek scored his 11th goal of the season in the 3-0 win against Dagenham & Redbridge. The outstanding Luke Coulson and Josh Rees confirmed the points with two goals in seven minutes.

"The current team are probably the best I've seen in my time watching the club," says Dave Roberts, author of a number of books about his beloved Bromley, most notably, *The Bromley Boys: The True Story of Supporting the Worst Team in Britain*, which chronicles relegation from the Isthmian League 50 years ago, and was turned into a film last year. How times have changed. "We would never have got players like Coulson and Cheek to come to Hayes Lane even a couple of years ago. I think Neil Smith has got a lot of respect and people believe in what he's trying to do."

Smith knows Bromley are punching above their weight but says: "I don't think money comes into it when you've got boys putting a shift in for you. There are clubs with bigger budgets and squads but as long as you've got camaraderie, team spirit, I think that's worth more than money. While we're in it we'll give it everything we've got."

Premier League

		P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	FORM	NEXT (Last meeting)
1	Liverpool	19	10	0	0	27	9	8	1	0	20	5	33	55	WWWWW	Sheff Utd (h) (1-0)
2	Leicester	20	7	2	1	19	9	6	1	3	24	10	24	42	WDLLW	Newcastle (a) (5-0)
3	Manchester City	20	7	1	2	27	9	6	1	3	27	14	31	41	LWWLW	Everton (h) (3-1)
4	Chelsea	20	4	2	4	11	10	7	0	3	24	18	7	35	LLWLW	Brighton (a) (2-0)
5	Manchester Utd	20	5	4	1	20	10	3	3	4	12	13	9	31	WDLWW	Arsenal (a) (1-1)
6	Tottenham	20	6	2	2	21	10	2	4	4	15	19	7	30	WWLWD	Southampton (a) (2-1)
7	Wolves	20	4	4	2	16	14	3	5	2	13	11	4	30	DLWWL	Watford (a) (2-0)
8	Sheffield Utd	20	4	2	4	12	10	3	6	1	11	9	4	29	WWWDL	Liverpool (a) (0-1)
9	Crystal Palace	20	4	3	3	9	9	3	3	4	9	13	-4	27	DDLWD	Norwich (a) (2-0)
10	Everton	20	5	2	3	12	11	2	2	6	11	19	-7	25	WDDWW	Man City (a) (1-3)
11	Newcastle	20	4	4	2	11	9	3	0	7	9	21	-10	25	WLWLL	Leicester (h) (0-5)
12	Arsenal	20	3	4	3	15	17	2	5	3	11	13	-4	24	WLDDL	Man Utd (h) (1-1)
13	Burnley	20	5	0	5	13	15	2	3	5	10	17	-9	24	LWWLL	Aston Villa (h) (2-2)
14	Brighton	20	4	3	3	14	11	2	2	6	10	17	-4	23	DDLLW	Chelsea (h) (0-2)
15	Southampton	20	2	2	6	10	25	4	2	4	14	13	-14	22	LLWWD	Tottenham (h) (1-2)
16	Bournemouth	20	2	4	4	10	14	3	1	6	10	14	-8	20	LWLDL	West Ham (a) (2-2)
17	West Ham	19	2	1	6	12	19	3	3	4	9	13	-11	19	LLWLL	Bournemouth (h) (2-2)
18	Aston Villa	20	4	2	4	13	14	1	1	8	12	22	-11	18	LLLWL	Burnley (a) (2-2)
19	Watford	20	2	4	4	9	13	1	3	6	6	20	-18	16	DLWDW	Wolves (h) (0-2)
20	Norwich	20	2	2	6	16	24	1	2	7	5	16	-19	13	LDLLD	Crystal Palace (h) (0-2)

RESULTS

Arsenal Aubameyang 13 60,309	1	Chelsea Jorginho 83 Abraham 87	2
Brighton Jahanbakhsh 3 Mooy 79	2	Bournemouth 30,441	0
Burnley 21,924	0	Manchester United Martial 44 Rashford 90+5	2
Liverpool Mané 42	1	Wolverhampton 53,326	0
Manchester City Agüero 52 De Bruyne 82	2	Sheffield United 54,512	0
Newcastle United Schär 56 52,211	1	Everton Calvert-Lewin 13, 64	2
Norwich City Vrancic 18 Aurier (og) 61 27,072	2	Tottenham Eriksen 55 Kane 83 (pen)	2
Southampton Ings 74 31,108	1	Crystal Palace Tomkins 50	1
Watford Deeney 42, 67 (pen) Sarr 71	3	Aston Villa 21,348	0
West Ham United Fornals 45 59,519	1	Leicester City Iheanacho 40 Gray 56	2

TOP SCORERS

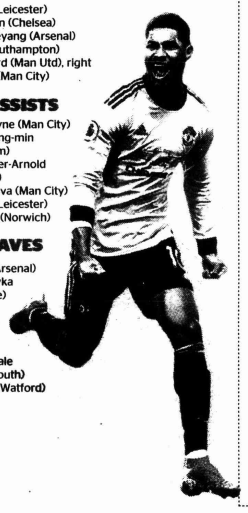
17 Vardy (Leicester)
11 Abraham (Chelsea)
11 Aubameyang (Arsenal)
11 Ings (Southampton)
10 Rashford (Man Utd), right
9 Agüero (Man City)

TOP ASSISTS

10 De Bruyne (Man City)
7 Son Heung-min (Tottenham)
6 Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
6 David Silva (Man City)
5 Barnes (Leicester)
5 Buendía (Norwich)

TOP SAVES

73 Leno (Arsenal)
68 Dubravka (Newcastle)
67 Ryan (Brighton)
62 Krul (Norwich)
62 Ramsdale (Bournemouth)
61 Foster (Watford)



TV HIGHLIGHTS
WITH MOLLY HUDSON

TODAY
Derby County v Charlton Athletic, Sky Sports Football, 7.45pm
Having narrowly missed out on promotion in May, Derby have found life more difficult this season and sit in 20th position. Charlton are in 18th, one point ahead.

Wednesday January 1
Arsenal v Manchester United, BT Sport 1, 8pm
Two sides that have found 2019 rather more humbling will hope to begin 2020 in better spirits.

Thursday January 2
Liverpool v Sheffield United, BT Sport 1, 8pm
After an impressive 2019, Liverpool face difficult opposition in their first match of the new year. Klopp's side were gifted three points by a Dean Henderson howler in the reverse fixture at Bramall Lane.

Non-League, Scotland and Europe

Vanarama National League

AFC Fylde Croasdale 6 2,764	1	Stockport Walker 53 Cowan 61	2
Aldershot 2,107	0	Barnet	0
Boreham Wood Mingoia 9, Fyfield 46 601	2	Eastleigh Hollands 45 Barnett 90+1	2
Bromley Cheek 43, Coulson 83 Rees 89	3	Dag & Red 2,312	0
Chorley 1,077	0	Harrogate Town Muldoon 27, Stead 67	2
Ebbsfleet United 1,222	0	Dover Athletic Woods 14	1
Halifax Town Redshaw 66 (pen)	1	Chesterfield 2,420	0
Hartlepool Holohan 55, Donaldson 76 3,790	2	Barrow Hardcastle 46, Angus 68	2
Maldenhead United Whitehall 23, 53	2	Wrexham 1,472	0
Solihull Moors 3,212	0	Notts County Thomas 72	1
Sutton United Beautyman 24 Goodliffe 42, Ajiboye 63	3	Yeovil Murphy 26, Skendi 38 2,189	2
Torquay United Hall 25, Reid 37 Whitfield 71, Keating 90+5	4	Woking Hyde 12 3,078	1

Sent off: G Poku (Woking) 53

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barrow	26	15	4	7	49	30	19	49
Yeovil	28	14	6	8	52	36	16	48
Bromley	28	13	8	7	48	37	11	47
Harrogate Town	28	13	7	8	45	37	8	46
Stockport County	28	13	5	10	43	43	0	44
Notts County	27	11	9	7	44	30	14	42
Solihull Moors	26	12	5	9	39	28	11	41
Boreham Wood	27	11	8	8	40	31	9	41
Woking	27	11	8	8	38	37	1	41
Halifax	27	12	5	10	36	39	-3	41
Dover Athletic	26	11	6	9	34	33	1	39
Barnet	26	10	8	8	40	34	6	38
Eastleigh	26	9	10	7	35	36	-1	37
Torquay	28	11	4	13	49	53	-4	37
Hartlepool	27	9	9	9	41	40	1	36
Sutton United	28	9	9	10	34	34	0	36
Maidenhead Utd	28	10	4	14	35	42	-7	34
Dag & Red	28	8	7	13	31	38	-7	31
Aldershot	27	8	7	12	28	37	-9	31
AFC Fylde	27	7	9	11	33	43	-10	30
Wrexham	28	7	8	13	34	41	-7	29
Chesterfield	28	6	9	13	38	50	-12	27
Ebbsfleet United	27	5	9	13	37	50	-13	24
Chorley	28	4	12	12	25	49	-24	24

North

Alfreton Town 2 King's Lynn Town 2; Altrincham 3 Southport 0; Blyth Spartans 0 Darlington 2; Boston United 2 Kettering 1; Brackley 2 Kidderminster 0; Chester 0 Curzon Ashton 1; Farsley Celtic 5 Bradford Park Avenue 0; Gloucester 0 AFC Telford 1; Hereford 1 Leamington 2; Spennymoor Town 1 Gateshead 3; York 1 Guiseley 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Kings Lynn Town	22	14	6	2	49	31	18	48
York	23	12	8	3	34	15	19	44
Brackley Town	21	11	6	4	43	13	30	39
Chester	22	10	8	4	40	24	16	38
Farsley Celtic	23	11	4	8	39	30	9	37
Southport	23	11	4	8	31	23	8	37
Spennymoor	22	9	7	6	38	28	10	34
Boston United	20	10	4	6	32	22	10	34
Darlington	22	10	3	9	27	30	-3	33
Guiseley	22	9	5	8	37	32	5	32
Gateshead	20	8	6	6	27	22	5	30
AFC Telford Utd	22	8	5	9	32	34	-2	29
Leamington	22	8	5	9	35	38	-3	29
Altrincham	19	7	6	6	32	26	6	27
Kidderminster	23	7	5	11	31	34	-3	26
Alfreton Town	22	8	2	12	32	37	-5	26
Hereford	23	6	7	10	25	37	-12	25
Curzon Ashton	22	6	5	11	23	32	-9	23
Gloucester City	21	6	5	10	28	40	-12	23
Kettering Town	21	5	6	10	29	36	-7	21
Blyth Spartans	22	4	4	14	20	51	-31	16
Bradford PA	23	3	3	17	14	63	-49	12

South

Billericay 1 Chelmsford 1; Braintree Town 0 Concord Rangers 1; Chippenham 0 Dorking 2; Dartford 3 Tonbridge Angels 0; Eastbourne Borough 2 Welling 1; Hampton & Richmond 0 Bath City 0; Hemel Hempstead 1 Slough 1; Hungerford Town 1 Havant & Waterlooville 3; Maidstone United 4 Dulwich 1; Wealdstone 1 St Albans 0; Weymouth 2 Oxford City 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wealdstone	21	15	2	4	43	22	21	47
Dorking Wands	23	12	6	5	40	31	9	42
Slough Town	21	12	5	4	34	20	14	41
Bath City	23	11	7	5	36	21	15	40
Havant & W	19	11	6	2	44	23	21	39
Weymouth	21	10	7	4	36	21	15	37
Concord Rangers	23	10	3	10	37	33	4	33
Maidstone United	21	8	7	6	36	25	11	31
Hemel Hempstead	20	9	4	7	26	27	-1	31
Dartford	23	8	7	8	36	38	-2	31
Hampton & R	22	9	3	10	31	34	-3	30
Chelmsford City	23	7	8	8	41	39	2	29
Oxford City	22	7	6	9	35	40	-5	27
Braintree	23	8	3	12	35	49	-14	27
Billericay Town	20	6	7	7	29	34	-5	25
Eastbourne Boro	23	6	7	10	20	39	-19	25
Welling	22	6	5	11	23	29	-6	23
Chippenham	22	5	8	9	21	27	-6	23
Dulwich Hamlet	22	5	7	10	29	33	-4	22
St Albans City	23	5	7	11	25	39	-14	22
Tonbridge Angels	22	5	5	12	28	40	-12	20
Hungerford Town	23	5	2	16	26	47	-21	17

BetVictor Northern League: Premier Division
Ashton United 1 FC United of Manchester 2.

BetVictor Southern League: Premier Division: Central Biggleswade Town 1 Stourbridge 2. South Hayes & Yeading 0 Metropolitan Police 2.

BetVictor Isthmian League: Premier Division AFC Hornchurch 3 Brightlingsea Regent 0; Corinthian Casuals 3 Cheshunt 1; Potters Bar 1 Kingstonian 2.

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership

Celtic Édouard 42 58,902	1	Rangers Kent 36 Katic 56	2

Sent off: A Morelos (Rangers) 90+6

Heart of Midlothian Meshino 49 17,788	1	Aberdeen McGinn 68	1

Sent off: S Clare (Hearts) 68

Livingston Guthrie 62, 77	2	Hibernian 4,902	0
Motherwell Long 5 6,048	1	Hamilton McGowan 68 Moyo 77	2
St Johnstone Hendry 84 2,658	1	Ross County Vigurs 72	1

Sent off: B Graham (Ross County) 90+3

St Mirren Durmus 17	1	Kilmarnock 6,363	0

Sky Bet Championship

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▲1 Leeds	25	7	4	1	19	8	8	2	3	23	12	22	51
▼2 West Brom	25	6	5	1	29	18	8	4	1	18	9	20	51
▲3 Fulham	25	8	2	3	24	14	4	4	4	15	14	11	42
▼4 Brentford	25	7	3	2	22	8	5	1	7	15	12	17	40
▲5 Nottingham Forest	24	5	2	4	11	11	6	5	2	20	12	8	40
▼6 Sheffield Wed	25	6	4	2	14	9	5	2	6	23	16	12	39
▼7 Preston	25	9	2	2	29	15	2	4	6	7	15	6	39
▲8 Bristol City	25	5	4	3	19	14	5	4	4	20	22	3	38
▼9 Swansea	25	5	3	5	16	15	5	5	2	15	15	1	38
▲10 Cardiff	25	7	4	1	19	10	2	6	5	18	24	3	37
▲11 Millwall	25	6	4	2	18	13	3	6	4	13	18	0	37
▲12 Hull	25	6	2	5	21	16	4	4	4	18	18	5	36
▼13 Blackburn	25	6	5	2	16	11	4	1	7	16	20	1	36
▲14 Reading	24	6	0	6	18	16	3	5	4	13	11	4	32
▼15 QPR	25	4	4	5	22	26	5	1	6	16	21	-9	32
▲16 Middlesbrough	25	6	4	3	12	11	1	5	6	12	21	-8	30
▼17 Birmingham	25	5	2	5	17	17	3	3	7	12	23	-11	29
▼18 Charlton	24	5	3	5	18	16	2	4	5	15	18	-1	28
▲19 Huddersfield	25	4	4	5	14	16	3	3	6	14	21	-9	28
▼20 Derby	24	5	5	2	14	9	1	4	7	8	23	-10	27
▶21 Stoke	25	4	2	7	17	20	2	1	9	11	20	-12	21
▲22 Barnsley	25	3	6	4	22	25	1	3	8	10	22	-15	21
▼23 Luton Town	25	4	3	5	19	20	2	0	11	12	33	-22	21
▶24 Wigan	25	4	4	4	12	15	0	4	9	9	22	-16	20

Birmingham 4
Bellingham 27
Jutkiewicz 61, 90+1
Bela 83
22,059

Leeds 5
Costa 15
Harrison 21
Ayling 69
Dallas 84
Harding (og) 90+5

Bristol City 3
Watkins 4
Diédhiou 44 (pen)
Weimann 66

Luton 0
22,216

Fulham 1
De Cordova-Reid 26

Stoke 0
18,747

Huddersfld 2
Stankovic 25
Mounie 71
22,859

Blackburn 1
Graham 7

Millwall 1
O'Brien 8

Brentford 0
15,464

Nottm For 1
Pereira
Figueiredo 60

Wigan 0
27,844

Preston 0
13,680

Reading 2
Swift 12
Lucas João 16

QPR 1
Chair 20
13,814

Hull 2
Honeyman 32
Irvine 89

Sheff Wed 1
Lees 18
25,385

Cardiff 2
Glatzel 5
Hoilett 8

Swansea 0
17,097

Barnsley 0

West Brom 0
25,077

Middlesbro 2
Ayala 17
Fletcher 90+4

TOP SCORERS

18 Mitrovic (Fulham)
15 Bowen (Hull City)
15 Watkins (Brentford), right
12 Fletcher (Sheffield Wed)
12 Grabban (Nottm Forest)
12 Grant (Huddersfield)

TOP ASSISTS

10 Eliasson (Bristol City)
10 Matheus Pereira (West Brom)
7 Bannan (Sheff Wed)
7 Mowatt (Barnsley)
7 Swift (Reading)
6 Bowen (Hull City)

TOP SAVES

85 Bialkowski (Millwall)
83 Johnstone (West Brom)
80 Phillips (Charlton)
76 Bentley (Bristol City)
69 Rafael Cabral (Reading)
68 Woodman (Swansea)

Sky Bet League One

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶1 Wycombe	23	9	2	1	23	14	3	5	3	8	7	10	43
▲2 Oxford United	22	7	2	1	20	7	4	4	4	21	14	20	39
▲3 Rotherham	23	4	3	4	19	10	7	2	3	21	14	16	38
▼4 Ipswich	22	3	5	2	13	9	7	2	3	19	12	11	37
▶5 Coventry City	22	8	3	1	16	8	1	7	2	14	16	6	37
▼6 Peterborough	23	7	2	2	25	12	3	4	5	18	20	11	36
▼7 Bristol Rovers	22	5	5	2	18	13	5	1	4	12	14	3	36
▲8 Fleetwood Town	21	7	3	1	17	8	3	2	5	19	20	8	35
▲9 Portsmouth	22	7	5	0	22	11	2	2	6	11	16	6	34
▼10 Blackpool	23	6	2	4	18	15	2	8	1	13	11	5	34
▲11 Gillingham	23	7	1	4	20	12	1	7	3	7	11	4	32
▼12 Shrewsbury	22	5	3	3	14	14	3	5	3	7	9	-2	32
▶13 Sunderland	21	5	5	1	18	9	3	2	5	9	13	5	31
▶14 Burton Albion	22	4	3	3	11	8	4	3	5	17	19	1	30
▲15 Accrington Stanley	23	5	2	3	23	13	2	6	5	10	18	2	29
▼16 Doncaster	20	5	4	3	18	14	2	3	3	13	9	8	28
▼17 Lincoln City	22	6	1	2	16	10	2	2	9	10	17	-1	27
▲18 AFC Wimbledon	23	4	4	3	13	13	2	1	9	15	22	-7	23
▼19 Rochdale	23	2	3	6	10	17	4	1	7	15	23	-15	22
▶20 Tranmere	22	2	3	5	17	14	2	1	8	9	25	-13	21
▶21 MK Dons	23	5	1	6	12	18	1	2	8	11	18	-13	21
▶22 Southend United	23	0	3	8	11	34	1	2	9	15	30	-38	8
▶23 *Bolton	20	3	6	2	11	15	1	1	7	4	27	-27	7

*Deducted 12pts for going into administration

AFC Wimbdn1
Pigott 47
4,763

Oxford Utd 2
McLoughlin (og) 26
Sykes 61

Accrington 2
McConville 39
Sykes 65
Sent off: J Lowe (Bolton) 58

Burton 0
2,449

Bolton 1
Verlinden 14
13,788

Shrewsbury 1
Udoh 53

Doncaster 1
Taylor 40
12,432

Sunderland 2
Gooch 6
Maguire 61

Fleetwood 0
2,848

Bristol Rov 0

Gillingham 1
Ogilvie 86
Sent off: M Williams (Rochdale) 90+6

Rochdale 0
4,761

Lincoln 5
Walker 45+2, 72
Anderson 6
Bostwick 79
Hesketh 90+2

Ipswich 3
Garbutt 32
Toffolo (og) 59
Keane 83
10,012

MK Dons 3
Healey 35
McGrandles 42
Gilbey 84

Portsmouth 1
Curtis 90+3
12,788

Rotherham 4
Wood 50
Butler (og) 68
Ward (og) 77
Vassell 90+2
Sent off: F Kent (Peterboro) 54: J Mattock (Rotherham) 73

Peterboro 0
9,019

Tranmere 1
Ferrier 43
8,487

Blackpool 1
Heneghan 10

Wycombe 1
Akinfenwa 14

Coventry C 4
Godden 16 (pen), 44, 50
McCallum 3

TOP SCORERS

14 Toney (Peterborough)
13 Elsa (Peterborough)
13 Madden (Fleetwood)
11 Forss (AFC Wimbledon), right
11 Gnanduillet (Blackpool)
10 Bishop (Accrington)

TOP ASSISTS

10 Feeney (Blackpool)
8 Fraser (Burton Albion)
6 Coyle (Fleetwood)
6 Grant (Lincoln)
6 Jackson (Ipswich)
6 Maddison (Peterborough)

TOP SAVES

91 Nicholls (MK Dons)
90 Trott (AFC Wimbledon)
75 O'Hara (Burton Albion)
73 Matthews (Bolton)
65 Jaakkola (Bristol Rovers)
60 Vickers (Lincoln)

Sky Bet League Two

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶1 Swindon Town	24	8	1	3	20	11	6	3	3	23	15	17	46
▶2 Exeter City	24	7	4	1	20	11	5	4	3	14	16	7	44
▶3 Crewe	23	6	3	3	22	13	6	2	3	20	15	14	41
▲4 Bradford City	23	8	2	2	19	8	3	5	3	11	11	11	40
▲5 Forest Green Rovers	24	5	4	3	11	10	6	3	3	16	8	9	40
▼6 Colchester	23	6	3	2	17	9	4	5	3	17	13	12	38
▲7 Plymouth	22	7	3	1	23	10	4	2	5	10	13	10	38
▼8 Cheltenham	23	5	4	2	22	13	4	6	2	12	6	15	37
▶9 Northampton	24	7	2	3	20	9	3	4	5	13	19	5	36
▶10 Port Vale	24	6	5	1	16	9	2	5	5	14	20	-1	34
▶11 Salford City	24	4	4	4	12	14	4	4	4	19	19	-2	32
▲12 Cambridge United	24	5	3	4	16	12	3	4	5	12	15	1	31
▲13 Newport County	22	5	5	2	13	10	2	3	5	7	10	0	29
▼14 Scunthorpe	24	4	5	3	18	14	3	2	7	13	19	-2	28
▲15 Crawley Town	24	5	3	4	16	14	1	6	5	15	20	-3	27
▼16 Walsall	24	2	4	6	9	16	5	2	5	13	16	-10	27
▲17 Leyton Orient	24	2	4	6	15	22	4	4	4	17	19	-9	26
▼18 Oldham	23	3	5	4	15	16	3	3	5	10	19	-10	26
▲19 Carlisle	24	3	5	4	10	15	3	2	7	12	21	-14	25
▼20 Mansfield Town	24	2	4	6	18	22	3	5	4	12	13	-5	24
▼21 Grimsby Town	22	2	4	5	10	17	3	4	4	12	11	-6	23
▶22 *Macclesfield Town	22	3	6	1	11	7	2	4	6	9	17	-4	19
▶23 Morecambe	24	2	4	6	12	18	2	2	8	8	25	-23	18
▶24 Stevenage	23	2	4	5	9	15	0	7	5	6	14	-14	17

*Deducted 6pts for failing to pay players' wages and failing to fulfil a fixture

Bradford C 2
Vaughan 13 (pen)
83 (pen)

Mansfield 0
15,197

Cambridge 1
Roles 57

Morecambe 0
4,086

Colchester 2
Pell 16
Robinson 59
4,739
Sent off: T Lapslie (Colchester) 76

Exeter 2
Bowman 77 (pen)
Taylor 8

Crewe 3
Powell 20, 83
Green 40

Scunthorpe 1
Novak 81
4,578

Forest Green 1
Rawson 74

Macclesfld 0
2,155

Grimsby 1
Hessenthaler 2
3,612

Crawley 1
Nadesan 37

Newport Co 1
Amond 81
4,447

L Orient 1
Sotiriou 2

Northamptn 1
Turnbull 38
5,090
Sent off: A Addai (Cheltenham) 90+6

Cheltenham 1
Thomas 3 (pen)

Oldham 1
Segbe
Azankpo 58
5,278

Salford 4
Thomas-Asante 16, 48
Jervis 15, 36

Plymouth 2
Denton (og) 23
Canavan 90+6
11,719

Stevenage 1
List 60

Port Vale 2
Burgess 13
Taylor 52

Swindon T 0
5,495

Walsall 1
Adebayo 70
4,794
Sent off: J Clarke (Walsall) 77

Carlisle 2
Thomas 52
McKirdy 90+4

TOP SCORERS

22 Doyle (Swindon Town)
10 Yates (Swindon Town)
9 Bez Lubala (Crawley)
9 Bowman (Exeter), right
9 Vaughan (Bradford City)
8 Porter (Crewe)

TOP ASSISTS

9 Williams (Exeter)
8 Kirk (Crewe)
7 Nicky Adams (Northampton)
7 Woolery (Swindon Town)
5 Anderson (Swindon Town)
5 Doughty (Swindon Town)

TOP SAVES

75 Morris (Crawley)
72 Farman (Stevenage)
71 Brown (Port Vale)
71 Collin (Carlisle)
68 Flinders (Cheltenham Town)
61 Brill (Leyton Orient)

Fixtures

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	20	17	1	2	55	13	42	52
Rangers	19	16	2	1	53	11	42	50
Motherwell	21	12	1	8	33	27	6	37
Aberdeen	21	10	6	5	30	26	4	36
Livingston	21	6	7	8	30	29	1	25
Hibernian	21	6	7	8	29	36	-7	25
Kilmarnock	21	6	5	10	17	24	-7	23
Ross County	20	5	6	9	22	42	-20	21
St Johnstone	19	4	8	7	16	34	-18	20
St Mirren	21	5	4	12	17	29	-12	19
Hamilton	21	4	6	11	20	34	-14	18
Hearts	21	2	7	12	18	35	-17	13

Ladbrokes Championship

Ayr United 1
Muirhead 77 (pen)
2,062

Queen of South 2
Semple 4
Dobbie 58 (pen)

Dunfermline 1
Nisbet 20
4,257

Alloa Athletic 3
Brown 21, O'Hara 25, Flannigan 66 (pen)

Inverness CT 0

Arbroath 1
Donnelly 47

Morton 1
Jacobs 30 (pen)
2,742

Partick Thistle 2
Jones 5
O'Ware 61

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dundee United	19	15	1	3	43	15	28	46
Inverness CT	19	10	2	7	27	22	5	32
Dundee	19	8	5	6	26	26	0	29
Ayr United	19	9	1	9	32	30	2	28
Dunfermline	19	7	4	8	29	26	3	25
Queen of South	18	7	4	7	20	20	0	25
Arbroath	19	7	4	8	17	20	-3	25
Partick Thistle	19	6	3	10	26	35	-9	21
Morton	18	6	1	11	23	36	-13	19
Alloa Athletic	19	4	5	10	20	33	-13	17

League One

Airdrieonians 1
Carrick 39 (pen)
2,530

Falkirk 1
McMillan 34

Dumbarton 1
Scullion 85
656

Stranraer 1
Hilton 88

East Fife 3
Agnew 28
Dowds 61
Wallace 71

Raith Rovers 5
MacDonald 21, 37
Tait 54, Gullan 8, 90+5
1,998

Forfar Athletic 2
Forbes 14
MacKintosh 33
943

Montrose 3
Campbell 13
Webster 65
Steeves 90

Peterhead 2
Lyle 30, Brown 86
Sent off: S Ferry (Peterhead) 90+2

Clyde 0
585

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Raith Rovers	19	10	5	4	36	24	12	35
Airdrieonians	19	10	3	6	30	23	7	33
Falkirk	19	8	8	3	32	12	20	32
East Fife	19	8	8	3	31	24	7	32
Montrose	19	9	2	8	31	26	5	29
Dumbarton	19	8	4	7	28	32	-4	28
Peterhead	19	6	4	9	23	28	-5	22
Clyde	19	5	6	8	22	30	-8	21
Forfar Athletic	19	5	3	11	20	31	-11	18
Stranraer	19	2	5	12	19	42	-23	11

League Two

Annan Athletic 3
Muir 9, 39
Flanagan 53
449

Queen's Park 2
Moore 35
Kouider-Aissa 78

Brechin City 0
459
Sent off: L Watt (Brechin City) 86

Albion Rovers 0

Cove Rangers 2
Glass 31
Megginson 87

Elgin City 0
1,264

Edinburgh City 2
Henderson 61
Court 88

Cowdenbeath 0
494

Stenhousemuir 0
824

Stirling Albion 2
Mackin 4, Wilson 90+3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Cove Rangers	18	14	1	3	47	23	24	43
Edinburgh City	18	13	2	3	37	21	16	41
Cowdenbeath	17	9	2	6	22	17	5	29
Annan Athletic	18	8	3	7	28	33	-5	27
Elgin City	18	5	7	6	27	22	5	22
Stirling Albion	18	5	5	8	17	17	0	20
Queen's Park	18	5	4	9	23	28	-5	19
Albion Rovers	17	5	4	8	26	33	-7	19
Stenhousemuir	18	4	4	10	19	35	-16	16
Brechin City	18	4	2	12	22	39	-17	14

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Today

Sky Bet Championship Derby v Charlton (7.45).

Wednesday

Premier League Arsenal v Manchester United (8.0); Brighton v Chelsea (12.30); Burnley v Aston Villa (12.30); Manchester City v Everton (5.30); Newcastle United v Leicester; Norwich v Crystal Palace (5.30); Southampton v Tottenham; Watford v Wolverhampton Wanderers; West Ham v Bournemouth (5.30).

Sky Bet Championship Birmingham v Wigan; Bristol City v Brentford; Fulham v Reading; Huddersfield v Stoke; Millwall v Luton (12.45); Nottingham Forest v Blackburn; Preston v Middlesbrough; Queens Park Rangers v Cardiff; Sheffield Wednesday v Hull; West Bromwich Albion v Leeds United (5.15). **League One** AFC Wimbledon v Southend United; Accrington v Rochdale; Bolton v Burton Albion; Doncaster v Oxford United; Fleetwood v Sunderland; Gillingham v Portsmouth; Lincoln City v Peterborough; Milton Keynes Dons v Bristol Rovers; Rotherham v Blackpool; Tranmere v Coventry City; Wycombe v Ipswich. **League Two** Bradford City v Morecambe; Cambridge United v Mansfield; Colchester v Crawley; Crewe v Carlisle; Forest Green v Exeter; Grimsby v Salford City; Newport County v Cheltenham; Northampton v Stevenage; Oldham v Scunthorpe; Plymouth v Swindon Town; Port Vale v Macclesfield; Walsall v Leyton Orient.

Vanarama National League AFC Fylde v Barrow; Aldershot v Eastleigh; Boreham Wood v Barnet; Bromley v Dover; Chorley v Wrexham; Ebbsfleet United v Dagenham & Redbridge; Halifax v Stockport County; Hartlepool v Harrogate Town; Maidenhead United v Notts County; Solihull Moors v Chesterfield; Sutton United v Woking; Torquay v Yeovil.

Thursday

Premier League Liverpool v Sheffield United (8.0).

Sky Bet Championship (7.45): Derby v Barnsley; Swansea v Charlton.

Saturday

FA Cup: Third round (3.01 unless stated): Birmingham v Blackburn (12.31); Bournemouth v Luton (5.31); Brentford v Stoke; Brighton v Sheffield Wednesday; Bristol City v Shrewsbury (12.31); Burnley v Peterborough (12.31); Cardiff v Carlisle; Fleetwood v Portsmouth (5.31); Fulham v Aston Villa; Leicester v Wigan (5.31); Manchester City v Port Vale (5.31); Millwall v Newport County (12.31); Oxford United v Hartlepool; Preston v Norwich; Reading v Blackpool; Rochdale v Newcastle United (12.31); Rotherham v Hull (12.31); Southampton v Huddersfield; Watford v Tranmere; Wolverhampton Wanderers v Manchester United (5.31).

Sky Bet League One Sunderland v Lincoln City.

League Two Cheltenham v Oldham; Crawley v Forest Green; Macclesfield v Cambridge United; Mansfield v Grimsby; Salford City v Walsall; Scunthorpe v Plymouth; Stevenage v Colchester; Swindon Town v Bradford City.

Vanarama National League Barnet v Halifax; Barrow v Ebbsfleet United; Chesterfield v Sutton United; Dagenham & Redbridge v Torquay; Dover v Hartlepool; Harrogate Town v Maidenhead United; Notts County v Bromley; Stockport County v Boreham Wood; Woking v Chorley; Wrexham v Aldershot; Yeovil v Solihull Moors.

Ladbrokes Scottish Championship Alloa v Partick; Arbroath v Morton; Dundee v Inverness Caledonian Thistle; Dunfermline v Ayr; Queen of the South v Dundee United. **League One** Airdrieonians v Forfar; Clyde v Stranraer; Falkirk v Dumbarton; Montrose v East Fife; Raith v Peterhead. **League Two** Albion v Stirling Albion; Brechin v Cove Rangers; Cowdenbeath v Annan Ath; Elgin v Edinburgh City; Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir.

Sunday

FA Cup: Third round (2.01 unless stated): Bristol Rovers v Coventry City; Burton Albion v Northampton; Charlton v West Bromwich Albion; Chelsea v Nottingham Forest; Crewe v Barnsley; Crystal Palace v Derby; Gillingham v West Ham (6.16); Liverpool v Everton (4.01); Middlesbrough v Tottenham; QPR v Swansea; Sheffield United v AFC Fylde.

Women's Super League Arsenal v Birmingham (2.0); Brighton v Liverpool (2.0); Chelsea v Reading (12.30); Manchester United v Bristol City (midday); Tottenham v Manchester City (2.0); West Ham v Everton.

MOLLY HUDSON

The expert eye on the women's game

New year honours
It is hard to think of a more deserving footballer to be appointed MBE than Jill Scott. The 32-year-old has 146 caps and remains one of England's key players as an energetic box-to-box midfielder.

Her journey to being a full-time professional, as told by team-mate Demi Stokes, is one that has spanned this decade and epitomises the progress made by women's footballers.

"Jill had to do a job, then drive to Everton, then it is grab a cheese sandwich and you've got to train, then drive back up and do a bit of work," Stokes said.

Scott turned professional at 26, and has appeared in more World Cup matches (18) than any England player in history. Her soccer school provides a pathway for future young stars, and they would do well to follow Scott's exemplary attitude and work ethic.

Baroness Sue Campbell, the FA director of women's football, becomes a dame and is a somewhat controversial choice given that smaller clubs such as Doncaster Belles and Sunderland have been phased out of the game and replaced by Premier League teams. Regardless, it is a deserved honour having also chaired UK Sport for five years. She was heavily involved with Team GB during London 2012.

January transfer window
Izzy Christiansen's return to Everton is a statement of intent from a side who have improved rapidly this term.

The 28-year-old joined Champions League winners Lyons in the summer of 2018 but the move ended up stunting her development.

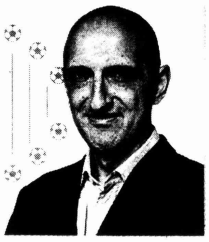
Christiansen struggled to break into a team who had 22 internationals to pick from and an ankle injury set her back further, resulting in Phil Neville, the England head coach, leaving her out of the World Cup squad last summer. Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal were among those not interested in signing Christiansen, and she will be out to prove a point and regain her England berth too.

Midfielder Rachel Furness, who has starred on loan at Tottenham Hotspur this season before being recalled by Reading, was sold to Liverpool on Saturday.

The transfer window closes on January 23 with Arsenal expected to bolster their attacking options to provide cover for Vivianne Miedema.

Sam Kerr in training
The prolific Australia forward Sam Kerr arrived on Saturday and has been pictured training at Chelsea, having signed for the club in November. She is likely to make her debut against Reading on January 5.

MATTHEW SYED



The DNA of sport

How talismanic Van Dijk made Liverpool's self-belief contagious

One of the most fascinating phenomena in sport is that of social contagion. A batsman is dismissed, then another in quick succession. Up on the balcony, a psychological tremor reverberates through the team. The lower order are frantically getting their pads on, the captain is starting to panic, and the new batsman is walking to the crease with fear in his eyes.

I once interviewed Mark Ramprakash and he talked with painful eloquence about what it is like to be immersed within a batting collapse – and how it can develop a momentum of its own. "There are times when you are walking out to the crease and, in your own mind, you are already walking back to the pavilion," he said. "It can be almost overpowering."

You see this in football, too. Perhaps the most dramatic example was the semi-final between Brazil and Germany at the 2014 World Cup. You may remember that the Brazilians started the match as favourites, they were playing in front of an ecstatic home crowd, and it was gearing up to be a national celebration. Then Germany scored two goals in the first 23 minutes.

The Brazilians collapsed. The head of Oscar dropped, then the shoulders of Hulk. Doubt transmitted from player to player like a virus. Tactical coherence disappeared. I was put in mind of JRR Tolkien's description of the fall of Mordor: "captains suddenly steerless, bereft of will, wavered and despaired". Gary Lineker put it more prosaically: "On nigh on half a century of watching football, that's the most extraordinary, staggering, bewildering game I've ever witnessed." Brazil lost 7-1.

You can probably think of other examples, not just in cricket and football, but beyond. Sociologists argue that everything from bank runs to crime waves follow the same basic pattern. The mechanisms of transmission vary from case to case (and can often be difficult to see with the naked eye), but the overall effect is the same: one person infecting another, then another, until a broader community becomes acutely vulnerable.

Yet I would like to suggest that social contagions can follow a different path. Indeed, they can sometimes have positive effects. Instead of the spread of self-doubt, there is the transmission of self-belief. Instead of fear or trepidation, there is a diffusion of assurance. Indeed, I would suggest that Liverpool have experienced just such a contagion. And, I would also pin down the start of this benign epidemic to a particular date: December 27, 2017.

This was the day when Virgil van Dijk was purchased from Southampton. The transfer fee of £75million was considered high by many pundits — indeed, the highest fee paid for any defender at that time. Within weeks, however, the influence of this player was being felt, not just on the pitch, but in the stands. His intelligent positioning, his coolness in the tackle, his capacity to seem unhurried even in the frenetic environs of the penalty box: all seemed to transmit to team-mates, and from there to fans.

The word "talismanic" seems particularly appropriate in this context. It denotes how some players exert an influence that extends beyond the tactical. One thinks of Eric Cantona and Sergio Ramos, players who, in their different ways, transformed the culture of their clubs. One thinks, too, of Peter Shilton, whose influence at Nottingham Forest went far beyond shot stopping. As Brian Clough told Duncan Hamilton, his biographer: "With Shilton in goal it gave everyone more confidence. It spread through the side… the defenders felt safer, and the forwards thought if we could nick a goal there was more than an evens chance that the opposition wouldn't score at the other end."

Doesn't Van Dijk play a similar role at Liverpool? In many ways, he represents the antithesis of defenders such as John Terry, who wore their hearts on their sleeves and wowed fans with last-ditch challenges. Van Dijk tends to avert danger not by making heroic clearances but through positional intelligence. His defending is about prevention rather than cure. It is a modus operandi that is both effective — and beautiful.

This isn't to diminish the contributions of the other players at Liverpool. The club has arguably the most potent front three in world football, full backs of superlative quality, a superb midfield, not to mention a world-class goalkeeper. Jürgen Klopp has improved every player while fusing them together with artful man-management and tactical insight. Little wonder that they are World champions, European champions, and likely to become Premier League champions.

Yet it is Van Dijk, who played his 100th game for the club yesterday, who has set the tone. The player whose influence staunched a sometimes porous defence. The player who marshals those around him. Above all, the player whose presence transmits composure, not to mention the resolve to forge late victories. Little wonder Franco Baresi, another majestic defender, said: "Liverpool have grown hugely as a team recently and a lot of that is thanks to Van Dijk."

In the years to come, particularly if Liverpool continue this remarkable run, Van Dijk may come to be regarded as one of the most significant signings in Premier League history. He shows that while social influence can often be malign, it can also be supremely galvanising.

Does anyone dispute that VAR has been a disaster? A disaster that has undermined the spontaneity and joy of the beautiful game and strangled it with quasi-judicial pedantry? The only question is whether the football authorities have the maturity to admit their blunder. For to continue with this woeful technology in its present form could threaten the game itself.

LEAGUE ONE ROUND-UP

Matt Godden scored a hat-trick as **Coventry City** inflicted more misery on **Wycombe Wanderers**, the Sky Bet League One leaders, with a 4-1 victory at Adams Park.

It was a third loss in a row for Gareth Ainsworth's team, who went behind after just three minutes to a stunning strike from Sam McCallum. Adebayo Akinfenwa hauled the home side level 11 minutes later but Wycombe's relief was short-lived as Godden scored his first from the penalty spot in the 16th minute, followed by two either side of half-time to end a ten-match drought.

Oxford United are up to second, four points behind Wycombe with a game in hand, after their third straight win, 2-1 away to **AFC Wimbledon**. Mark Sykes's first league goal for the club clinched the points.

Rotherham United are third after a 4-0 thrashing of promotion rivals **Peterborough United**, helped in part by two own goals. They were ahead when Peterborough were reduced to ten men with Frankie Kent sent off for a second booking. Rotherham also had a player dismissed, Joe Mattock sent off for violent conduct at 2-0.

Ipswich Town's slump continued as they lost 5-3 away to **Lincoln City**. The former leaders are without a win in seven league games.

At the foot of the table, **Bolton Wanderers** went unbeaten in three games over the festive period after a 1-1 home draw with **Shrewsbury Town**. Wanderers, who held on for a point after Jason Lowe's 58th-minute red card, are a point behind Southend United and 14 adrift of MK Dons.

Sunderland ended a run of five matches without a win with a 2-1 victory away to **Doncaster Rovers**.

LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP

Pádraig Amond rescued a point for **Newport County** as his team's meeting with **Leyton Orient** ended 1-1. The clubs paid tribute to the late Justin Edinburgh, who had managed both teams. Edinburgh, who died of a cardiac arrest in June aged 49, was inducted into Newport's hall of fame in June and Mike Flynn, the Newport manager, felt the stalemate was a fitting tribute to his memory.

"Justin Edinburgh is someone I miss dearly," Flynn said. "He was so respected throughout football. And it looks like he couldn't decide who he wanted to win today — that's why we went to a draw."

Amond struck his tenth goal of the season in the 82nd minute to cancel out Ruel Sotiriou's opener.

Leaders **Swindon Town** suffered a surprise 2-0 defeat away to **Port Vale**, who visit Manchester City in the FA Cup third round this weekend. Scott Burgess and Jake Taylor scored either side of half-time to end Swindon's nine-match unbeaten league run. "It was the character that my players showed that pleased me most," Richie Wellens, the Swindon manager, said.

Exeter City were held to a 2-2 draw with hosts **Colchester United**, whose ten men held on after Tom Lapslie's second-half dismissal.

Crewe Alexandra remain in the final automatic promotion place after Daniel Powell scored twice in a 3-1 win over **Scunthorpe United**, while **Salford City** had a 4-1 derby victory away to **Oldham Athletic** with Jake Jervis and Brandon Thomas-Asante both scoring twice.

Stevenage end the calendar year rooted to the foot of the EFL after Niall Canavan bundled in a 96th-minute winner in **Plymouth Argyle's** 2-1 home victory.

"The Times." Times, 30 Dec. 2019, p. 1. The Times Digital Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/POQAYB230836133/TTDA?u=nuim&sid=bookmark-TTDA. Accessed 8 Aug. 2026.